



Police Federation of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

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Dear member,

The Police Federation of Australia conducted an emergency teleconference this morning with union presidents from each jurisdiction, to address several critical member issues associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Many members have experienced some frustration about the lack of communication from their employer in respect of ever-changing protocols and procedures associated with the virus.

The PFA will present all of the pertinent issues and requests to the commissioner of each jurisdiction.

The issues and requests include:

- A temporary suspension of all non-essential policing activities. (This includes drug and alcohol testing and RBT units, which also pose a risk of contracting the virus - to both police officers and the public. WA, Victoria and NSW already have temporary restrictions on RBT and drug testing stations).
- Leave arrangements and provisions in respect of possible self-isolation of members. (All presidents agreed that this should be classified as special leave.)
- Leave arrangements for members diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Working-from-home provisions.
- The provision and supply of personal protective equipment, and the amount of reserve stock available.
- Cleaning and decontamination procedures, for members and their equipment.
- Arrest protocols when coming into contact with members of the public, especially if they are known to be infected with the virus.
- Priority testing for police officers and other emergency services workers with symptoms of COVID-19, or who have come into contact with it - depending on the medical advice.
- Workers compensation arrangements for officers who might contract COVID-19.

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- The temporary suspension of mandatory training programs.
- Risk-mitigation protocols.
- The provision of a daily departmental briefing to members, in respect of the rapidly changing profile and severity of the pandemic, and how this might affect critical procedures.
- Police protocols in respect of communities most vulnerable to adverse effects of COVID-19, such as the indigenous and the elderly.

We also intend to address what has been an incredibly slow (and in some cases, non-existent) official dialogue or response from police departments around the country.

The PFA, as well as each jurisdiction's union, will continue to keep members informed of the progress of the discussions with the respective police departments.

The lack of response and action from some departments so far has been unacceptable.

Regards

Scott Weber
Chief Executive Officer
Police Federation of Australia

Mark Carroll
President, Police Federation of Australia
President, Police Association of South Australia

Ian Leavers
Vice President, Police Federation of Australia
President, Queensland Police Union

Paul McCue
Vice President, Police Federation of Australia
President, Northern Territory Police Association

John Laird
Treasurer, Police Federation of Australia
President, The Police Association (Victoria)

Angela Smith
Executive Member, Police Federation of Australia
President, Australian Federal Police Association

Tony King
Executive Member, Police Federation of Australia
President, Police Association of NSW

Harry Arnott
Executive Member, Police Federation of Australia
President, Western Australia Police Union

Colin Riley
Executive Member, Police Federation of Australia
President, Police Association of Tasmania