

29 September 2020



Australian Federal Police Association

Canberra Liberals looking after police officers and the community

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes today's commitment from the Canberra Liberals for an injection of 130 more police officers into ACT Policing if they form Government.

The AFPA is seeking five election commitments from all parties, being:

- More police on patrol
- New ACT Policing facilities
- Tougher penalties for assaulting police officers
- Opposing to the AFP wage freeze
- Permanent funding for the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) initiative

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the commitment from the Canberra Liberals is an excellent step towards ensuring ACT Policing is appropriately staffed, and addresses the disparity between the ACT population and the number of police officers.

“The ACT has the lowest number of police officers per 100,000 people in Australia. We want to see the ACT figure increase from the current 205 officers, to 278 officers per 100,000 people, which is the current Australian average. The Canberra Liberals' commitment will meet this figure.

“Additional officers would not only be welcomed by the community, but by the members of ACT Policing. Policing is a 24/7, 365-day environment that requires a large workforce. We're consistently seeing ACT Policing officers who are stressed, overworked and exhausted. These 130 additional officers will allow members to take leave and recuperate physically and mentally without impacting hugely on patrol strengths,” Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA believes that this vital announcement could potentially assist in some cost savings for the ACT Government and ACT Policing over the commitment term.

Mr Caruana said that the amount of overtime being worked by ACT Policing members is quite high, and it comes with financial costs that the Government and ACT Policing have to carry on their books.



“More officers on the ground and available to work within the roster pattern will hopefully see a reduction in overtime expenditure. A benefit is that funds may be diverted into other areas such as restorative justice, diversion and engagement strategies that benefit the community.” Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA is calling on the other parties to meet this Canberra Liberals commitment.

END STATEMENT

For comments:

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