



16 OCTOBER 2020

Australian Federal Police Association

AFPA ACT ELECTION REPORT CARD

With less than 24 hours of the ACT election campaign to go, the Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) has today released its election scorecard of how the major parties' law and order policies are tracking.

The AFPA represents more than 4000 AFP members who each day protect Australians from the dangers of terrorist attacks, child exploitation, drug importation and organised crime. In the ACT, our members fulfil critical community policing roles, and due to their work, effort and commitment have made Canberra one of Australia's safest cities to reside in.

AFPA President Alex Caruana originally called on both major political parties to invest in ACT Policing and provide better accommodation, more resources, legislative changes and expanded mental health capabilities. These commitments focused on delivering sustainable outcomes, not only for ACT Policing but for the ACT community.

Mr Caruana said that the AFPA has been lobbying since late 2019 for these commitments and he is pleased to say that most of our requests have been met with a positive response.

"The Canberra Liberals have delivered on all five of our priorities. They have been very open in communicating what they want to provide for Canberra. I applaud them for making these commitments that will help ACT Policing expand and grow as the Canberra community continues to grow.

"ACT Labor's commitments are made up of old promises and old money from the last budget. While still a good package, it lacks detail. \$33 million is a good commitment, but there are still many questions that haven't been answered, such as the makeup for the 69 staff, and what their plans are for Gungahlin Station and the Traffic Operations Centre." Mr Caruana said.

As part of the AFPA's report card, we have included the ACT Greens and Belco Party as they have made good commitments towards the AFPA's five-point plan.

Mr Caruana said that while the ACT Greens didn't address police numbers, accommodation and legislative reform, they did exceed expectations in their commitment towards the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) initiative.

"The ACT Greens delivered the best and most-aligned commitment supporting our vision for PACER. We didn't expect them to meet the AFPA's other priorities, as commitments within these areas don't fall within the remit of the ACT Greens.

"The report card doesn't reflect how well the ACT Greens, led by Mr Rattenbury, engage with the AFPA - we had several great discussions. They have some exciting ideas which we would like to further discuss with them in due course. I want to thank the ACT Greens for their openness and willingness to engage with us." Mr Caruana said.

In the lead-up to tomorrow’s election, the AFPA spoke with the Belco Party who committed to the AFPA’s five-point plan.

Mr Caruana said that the Belco Party is committed to ensuring there are enough police officers on the ground and that ACT Policing is adequately resourced.

“We had an excellent meeting with Mr Stefaniak, the leader of the Belco Party and he will support our five-point plan if elected. I want to thank Mr Stefaniak and the Belco Party for this commitment,” Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA also met with several candidates from the Canberra Progressives and some Independents.

Mr Caruana said that the Canberra Progressive candidates that met with the AFPA were all supportive of the five-point plan, especially Ms Bethany Williams, who engaged with the AFPA very early on into the campaign.

“Ms Williams is very passionate about supporting ACT Policing, especially in Gungahlin, and I wish her all the best on election day.

“We also met with Mr David Pollard, who is an Independent running in Yerrabi. Mr Pollard was another that reached out to us seeking our views. Mr Pollard is a great supporter of ACT Policing, and we welcome his commitments towards a new police station for Gungahlin and the expansion of the Canberra PCYC,” Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA Blue Star election edition can be found by [clicking here](#).

AFPA ELECTION 2020 REPORT CARD – WHO’S COMMITTED TO WHAT?					
	More police	New facilities	Tougher penalties for assaulting police	Against the AFP wage freeze	PACER funding
ACT Labor					
Canberra Liberals					
ACT Greens					
Belco Party					

END STATEMENT

For comments:

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