

11 February 2021



## Australian Federal Police Association

### AFPA applauds Standing Committee On Health and Community Wellbeing inquiry

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) applauds the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing's decision to conduct an inquiry and review into alcohol, tobacco and other drug harm reduction policy and programs provided in the ACT.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that this is an opportunity to take a holistic review of the current situation in the ACT.

"The Terms of Reference for the inquiry are quite broad. This is advantageous as it will allow for many different voices to be heard on this important topic.

"This inquiry will be a good opportunity to take a temperature check of the community, service providers and support agencies and facilitate a free and open discussion of the positives and negatives of the policies and services in its current form," AFPA President Alex Caruana said.

One of the AFPA's significant concerns and questions is whether the ACT has diversion strategies and organisations that can support people with short-term and long-term assistance, and this inquiry will hopefully provide those answers.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the AFPA is 'pro' harm minimisation, but support must be in place for people who enter the system seeking help.

"The last thing we want to see is people seeking help for substance addictions and that help not being there. These people take a courageous leap and seek help. It would be detrimental not to have appropriate support services in place.

"The AFPA will be making a submission on this important inquiry, and I'm looking forward to reading and hearing other views from the ACT community," AFPA President Alex Caruana said.

END STATEMENT

#### For comments:

AFPA Media and Government Relations Manager

Troy Roberts – (02) 6285 1677 – [troy.roberts@afpa.org.au](mailto:troy.roberts@afpa.org.au)