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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

AFPA WELCOMES DEDICATED ACT CORONER

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes the announcement from ACT Attorney-General Shane Rattenbury confirming the addition of a dedicated coroner to ACT's judicial system.

The new dedicated coroner will be welcomed by ACT Policing, the ACT community, and the legal fraternity.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the need for a dedicated coroner had been discussed for years and congratulated ACT Chief Magistrate Lorraine Walker and the Attorney-General in delivering this critical outcome.

"A coronial inquiry takes far too long in the ACT, and a new dedicated coroner will assist in speeding up the process. It's tragic for families to have to wait years for an official outcome as to why their loved one(s) passed away.

"A dedicated coroner will be welcomed by ACT Policing. The coroner fulfils a critical and essential role when ACT Policing members must report on a death or another matter that falls within the remit of the coroner.

"For years, a dedicated coroner has been visibly necessary, and it's pleasing that the ACT Government has provided the funding," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA believes that the new ACT coroner will better understand and meet the needs of witnesses and families during an inquest.

Mr Caruana said the coronial functions and responsibility had previously been rotated through the ACT magistrates, and they had done an exceptional job given that they took up this role on top of their existing judicial duties.

"A dedicated coroner will be able to focus purely on their role and not have to juggle and prioritise other caseloads. This will lead to better engagement with families and improve efficiency and welfare outcomes for everyone involved in a coronial process or inquest.

"I look forward to the day when the position is filled and congratulate all involved in delivering this important outcome," Mr Caruana said.

For comments:

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