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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

ATTACKS ON POLICE OFFICERS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) condemns the actions of a man arrested yesterday afternoon after deliberately driving at police and ramming a police car, causing a police officer to be hospitalised.

The collision occurred yesterday evening (6:00pm - Tuesday, 19 October) in Forbes Street, Turner. Police officers identified a stolen motor vehicle being driven by a man who had an outstanding warrant for breaching his bail conditions.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the man's actions were dangerous and unacceptable, with ACT Policing members performing their duties professionally and in alignment with community expectations.

"The ACT Government, in a tri-partisan approach, introduced specific offences that focused on first responder safety. These incidents are precisely why we called for this legislation, and we thank all involved for its implementation.

"There is no justification for driving at police officers or ramming a police vehicle. It just should not occur, but we see it happen all too often. We have seen very recent tragic outcomes across Australia where people have used vehicles as weapons, and incidents like this demonstrate just how dangerous policing is.

"Our thoughts go out to the officer who was hospitalised as a result of this crime. We wish him a speedy recovery," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA will continue to support the stricter bail rules proposed by the Canberra Liberals and Shadow Minister for Police Jeremy Hanson MLA in August 2021.

"The man involved in this incident was already out on bail. He was given the opportunity by the courts to remain in the community, and subsequently continued to commit crimes while on bail.

"We'll be engaging with the Attorney-General as we want to see the presumption for bail amended for serious offences against first responders. This means that both parties, in a judicial process, have an equal and fair opportunity to present their case as to why an alleged offender should or shouldn't receive bail. As it stands now, prosecutors have to go into battle with one hand tied behind their back when the presumption for bail is applied," Mr Caruana said.

For comments:

AFPA Media and Government Relations Manager Troy Roberts - (02) 6285 1677 – troy.roberts@afpa.org.au