

CCHQ 2022

STRONG ECONOMY. STRONGER FUTURE.

20 April 2022

Mr Alex Caruana
AFPA President
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Dear Mr Caruana

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. A response to your questions is attached.

The last two years have been tough for our country.

Despite the setbacks, Australia's economic recovery is leading the world.

Unemployment is at 4%, the equal lowest in 48 years. And the recent Budget included the biggest turnaround in our finances in over 70 years.

There's much more to be done. To build a stronger future, our plan will:

1. Deliver more jobs and working towards unemployment below 4%.
2. Deliver tax relief for workers and small businesses.
3. Invest in roads, rail, water infrastructure and renewable energy technology.
4. Make record investments in health and other essential services.
5. Invest in stronger defence, security and borders.

This election provides a clear choice, with real consequences for Australia.

The alternative at this election is Anthony Albanese and Labor. Labor would weaken our economy and put Australia's recovery at risk. Now is not the time to change course.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Hirst
Federal Director

AFPA Op Recognition Survey

AFPA Proposal	Proposed Response
Recognising the Toll	
<p>The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (Cth) is amended to include a presumption that AFP employees diagnosed with PTSD or other psychological conditions developed these conditions as a result of their employment with the AFP.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government recognises the risks faced by members of the AFP, and the impact that a career of service can have. This Government has a strong record of investment to improve health outcomes for AFP members and other law enforcement personnel.</p>
<p>The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (Cth) is amended, in conjunction with the introduction of presumptive legislation, to require the insurer to make interim provisional payments for AFP employees diagnosed with PTSD or another psychological condition if the insurer seeks to challenge that the injury is work-related.</p>	<p>That's why the Morrison Government committed \$65 million in the 2020-21 Budget for the AFP to implement its SHIELD program – the biggest single investment into health and wellbeing in the AFP's history. Under SHIELD the AFP now has psychologists embedded in all regional locations, delivering preventive assessments and early intervention based services. The comprehensive focus on prevention and early intervention under SHIELD is already providing improved health outcomes for current and former AFP members.</p>
<p>The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (Cth) is amended to remove the reduction of incapacity payments for AFP employees after 45 weeks.</p>	<p>In addition, the Morrison Government has reinvested Proceeds of Crime into a number of police mental health initiatives, including \$1.5 million over two grants for a Police Mental Health and Wellbeing project. And Fortem Australia has been supported to deliver a series of programs to foster improved mental health outcomes in police, law enforcement and first responders, with a total investment of over \$20 million.</p>
<p>Introduction of a 'Blue Card' for members of the AFP, similar to the veteran healthcare cards provided to members of the Australian Defence Force from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government has established a cross-jurisdictional First Responder Mental Health Working group to progress a nationally consistent approach to presumptive provisions for post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological injuries for first responder and emergency services agencies. The Government is also working with the AFP and other Government agencies on how presumptive provisions could better support first responders. We support the AFP's ongoing work with Comcare on efforts to fast-track PTSD claims processes, to ensure intervention at the earliest stage possible and the timely delivery of treatment and support services.</p>
<p>The establishment of a National Commissioner for First Responder Mental Health & Suicide, akin to the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide. In the alternative, the remit of the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide be expanded to include oversight of law enforcement and first responders, including the AFP.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government has established a cross-jurisdictional First Responder Mental Health Working group to progress a nationally consistent approach to presumptive provisions for post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological injuries for first responder and emergency services agencies. The Government is also working with the AFP and other Government agencies on how presumptive provisions could better support first responders. We support the AFP's ongoing work with Comcare on efforts to fast-track PTSD claims processes, to ensure intervention at the earliest stage possible and the timely delivery of treatment and support services.</p>

AFPA Proposal	Proposed Response
	<p>The Morrison Government has also committed \$8.3 million in the 2022-23 Budget to establish a national centre dedicated to PTSD research, education, and clinical services, with a focus on veterans and first responders. The centre will be located at the University of the Sunshine Coast's Thompson Institute and is expected to open in early 2023. The Black Dog Institute will also receive \$4 million (committed in the 2022-23 Budget) to establish a new <i>National Mental Health Service for Emergency Service Workers and Volunteers</i>.</p> <p>The Morrison Government will work with the AFP, the AFPA, and across government to implement SHIELD and identify the best way to ensure that current and former AFP members can access treatment and support services.</p>
Recognising the future	
<p>AFP to have a baseline of 8,500 employees by 2025, fully funded for the entire length of employment.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government remains committed to ensuring the Australian Federal Police has the resources and legislation required to keep Australians safe. Since 2018-19 the AFP has grown by more than 1,000 to a record 7440 in 2022-23, with an annual budget of more than \$1.7 billion.</p>
<p>Removal of the efficiency dividend from the AFP.</p> <p>A law enforcement white paper which provides a strategic review of current AFP capabilities, technology and facilities, as well as a commitment to fully fund any investment in new equipment, technology, and facilities to make the AFP a world leading law enforcement agency for the next 20 years.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government agreed to a sustainable funding model for the Australian Federal Police in 2020. This provides for a stable 7-year funding horizon, and implements a regular triennial review to ensure the AFP's resourcing remains appropriate to keep Australians safe from national security and serious organised criminal threats.</p>
Recognising Police Work	
<p>The AFP is exempted from the Public Sector Workplace Relations Policy.</p>	

AFPA Proposal	Proposed Response
<p>Establishment of a Review Panel under regulation 61 of the Australian Federal Police Regulations 2018 for employment decisions excluded from review by section 69B of the <i>Australian Federal Police Act 1979</i>.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government supports a strong Australian Federal Police that can best protect the community it serves, including fit-for-purpose employment arrangements.</p>
<p>The composition of the Review Panel to include AFPA representation.</p>	<p>The Public Sector Workplace Relations Policy reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring all Commonwealth entities have flexible and modern workplaces that do not contain restrictive work practices, with reasonable terms and conditions that reflect community expectations. The Policy provides for trading and amendment of conditions of employment.</p>
<p>In the alternative, extending the jurisdiction of the Merit Protection Commissioner to allow for review of AFP employment and promotion decisions.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government is committed to working with the Australian Federal Police to deliver workplace outcomes that meet the needs of the Australian community, and AFP appointees.</p>
Recognising Community Safety	
<p>Introduction of a National Firearms Registry to monitor the sale, supply, and movement of firearms across Australia.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government committed \$116.8 million in the 2022-23 Budget for the ACIC, including \$40.5 million to continue the integration of police services into the National Criminal Intelligence System (the NCIS).</p> <p>NCIS will give Australia's law enforcement a national picture of criminal activity and ensure they can find the information they need to keep themselves and the community safe.</p> <p>The Australian Firearms Information Network (AFIN) helps police and other law enforcement agencies manage the registration, licensing and movement of firearms coming into Australia and moving between our states and territories. AFIN provides a national view of information available about each firearm in Australia known to police and law enforcement agencies, improving and enhancing the current information available to support law enforcement agencies and the officers who protect our communities.</p>

AFPA Proposal	Proposed Response
	<p>The Morrison Government will continue its work with States and Territories to ensure police nationally have the tools they need to manage the threat of illicit firearms.</p>
<p>Enactment of Federal legislation which would only allow individuals to purchase ammunition for a firearm/s they are legally licenced to possess.</p>	<p>Under the National Firearms Agreement, legislation relating to the possession and use of firearms, including ammunition, is a State responsibility. The Morrison Government will continue to work in cooperation with States and Territories to keep Australians safe from illicit firearms.</p>
<p>Cessation of importation of ammunition for weapons which are illegal to privately own in Australia.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government will work with States and Territories to ensure import controls operate effectively to limit the ability to import ammunition where the importer has neither a genuine need or reason to import.</p>
<p>Retention of AFP Protective Service Officers at all current Commonwealth facilities.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government will continue to utilise AFP Protective Service Officers at current Commonwealth facilities.</p>
<p>Amendments to the existing framework to expand on the capabilities of law enforcement to respond to child exploitation.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government has taken strong and consistent action to ensure law enforcement agencies have the legislative framework and resources to protect children from child exploitation and identify and prosecute child sex offenders. This includes legislating for mandatory minimum sentences for online child sex offending, new powers for the AFP and ACIC to identify and disrupt offending on the darkweb, and expansion of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation.</p> <p>The Government as a signatory to the <u>International Statement: End-to-End Encryption and Public Safety</u> considers that end-to-end encryption that precludes lawful access to the content of communications in any circumstances creates severe risks to public safety. While encryption is an important tool to protect privacy and cyber security, that should preclude law enforcement from discharging its responsibility to keep the community safe from illegal activity.</p> <p>The Government has legislated to address some of the challenges that new technologies, such as anonymising technologies like encryption pose to law enforcement, including the:</p>

AFPA Proposal

Proposed Response

– *Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Act 2018*, which introduced an industry assistance framework to allow law enforcement and security agencies to seek or require assistance from industry to access important data to support investigations, and a computer access warrant framework to improve the ability for law enforcement agencies to access content at an unencrypted point.

– *Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (International Production Orders) Act 2021*, which reshapes Australia’s international crime cooperation efforts by addressing the challenges associated with obtaining electronic data held offshore, for example, social media companies based in the US.

– *Surveillance Legislation Amendment (Identify and Disrupt) Act 2021*, which introduced three new powers to enable the AFP and ACIC to collect intelligence to expose criminal networks operating online, disrupt their activity and gather evidence to support prosecutions.

The Morrison Government has also committed to holistic reforms to Australia’s electronic surveillance laws in response to the Comprehensive Review of the legal framework of the National Intelligence Community. The reforms will provide clear, transparent and usable powers, with appropriate safeguards, to support agencies to keep our community safe online as technology continues to evolve rapidly.

The Morrison Government is also committed to the use of technology to minimise the impact of child abuse material on law enforcement members through their investigations. In March 2022 the Minister for Home Affairs announced \$4.4 million to expand and enhance the joint AFP and Monash University Artificial Intelligence for Law Enforcement and Community Safety Lab. The funding will further develop the AFP’s capability to harness AI to automatically classify distressing material, characterise criminal communications and behaviour including on the dark web, and rapidly process and interpret large amounts of data.

AFPA Proposal	Proposed Response
	<p>The Morrison Government will continue to work with the AFP, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and other law enforcement agencies to ensure we can best protect our children from online predators.</p>
Recognising Integrity	
<p>The introduction of a Commonwealth Integrity/Anti-Corruption Commission which provides the same level of oversight and standard of conduct between parliamentarians, senior public servants, and AFP employees.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government is committed to delivering on our model to establish a Commonwealth Integrity Commission, with funding already in place for when the Commonwealth Integrity Commission legislation is passed.</p> <p>The model put forward by the Government builds on the already strong anti-corruption arrangements that exist at the Commonwealth level.</p>
<p>Ensure any Commonwealth Integrity/Anti-Corruption Commission is appropriately funded, resourced and staff to ensure fair, just and quick investigations.</p>	<p>The Commission would be a specialist investigation body for the most serious forms of criminal corruption.</p> <p>It will have appropriate safeguards to protect the rights and reputations of the people it investigates and robust oversight through an independent Inspector-General and a dedicated Parliamentary committee.</p> <p>It will also play a preventative and educative role.</p> <p>The Government has already implemented phase one of the Commonwealth Integrity Commission by expanding the jurisdiction of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) to cover five additional agencies – the Australian Taxation Office, Australian Securities and Investments Commission, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, and the Office of the Special Investigator.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Integrity Commission has been funded since the 2019-20 Budget. The Government has committed \$168.3 million over four years from 2022-23, including capital expenditure, to establish the Commonwealth Integrity Commission.</p> <p>Total funding also includes \$101.2 million of ACLEI's existing appropriation from 2022-23, that will transfer to the Commission once established.</p>

AFPA Proposal	Proposed Response
<p>A review conducted by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee into Part V of the <i>Australian Federal Police Act 1979</i> and the Professional Standards unit.</p>	<p>At full capacity, the Commonwealth Integrity Commission will have approximately 172 staff.</p>
<p>Amending the <i>Australian Federal Police Act 1979</i> to clarify the definition of 'serious misconduct'.</p>	<p>The Morrison Government is committed to an Australian Federal Police with an appropriate legal framework that supports the best delivery of community safety and national security outcomes for the Australian Community. A re-elected Liberal-Nationals Coalition Government will undertake a review of the AFP Act, including Part V.</p>

Proposed article for AFP Magazine from Home Affairs Minister

Australia's safety and security is my priority as Home Affairs Minister – and it can only be delivered through a strong AFP.

I've said many times that the AFP is Australia's elite police force. Your results and efforts constantly reinforce that. Whether you're running innovative international investigations like Special Operation Ironside, keeping our children safe with the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (the ACCCE), stopping drugs from reaching our communities, or protecting our Parliament House and other establishments – you make a real, tangible difference to our community.

That's why I've been a strong champion for the AFP – and why the Morrison Government will always ensure you have the tools needed to keep Australians safe.

Strong resourcing for a safer community

We have invested strongly in the AFP, growing it by 1000 members in the last three years – from 6366 to a record 7440 next financial year. The AFP now has an annual budget of over \$1.7 billion.

That includes \$189 million our recent budget for new organised strike teams, for more seizures of criminal proceeds that can be reinvested in our agencies and the community, to manage the threat of high risk terrorists in the community, and a national register to keep track of convicted terrorists when they finish their jail terms.

This builds on the \$300 million delivered in our previous Budget for a sustainable funding model and to build the AFP's new cyber command, and nearly \$60 million to expand the work of the ACCCE.

Importantly – the AFP's funding model includes a review of the AFP's funding situation every three years. These reviews ensure the AFP remains equipped to keep the community safe not just now but into the future.

World leading legislation to tackle evolving criminal threats

It's essential you have the powers and legislative backing you need in a rapidly changing threat environment.

The Morrison Government knows that almost every serious crime and national security threat now has an online element. That's why we've created new powers for the AFP and ACIC to identify and disrupt offending on the dark web, and a new international production order framework to fast-track the provision of overseas-held data.

This legislation enables police to protect Australians more effectively by serving warrants directly to communications service providers based overseas, such as Facebook and Google.

We've also committed to holistic reforms to electronic surveillance laws – to provide clear, transparent and usable powers, with appropriate safeguards, to support agencies to keep our community safe online as technology continues to evolve rapidly.

Giving police the support they need to support the community

Members of the AFP face challenging circumstances each and every day. You see, hear and experience things that most of us will never ever have to experience. We know that you deserve additional support – to make sure you can deal with those challenges and maintain your health.

That's why we committed over \$65 million to implement the APF's SHIELD program – the biggest single investment into health and wellbeing in the AFP's history. Under SHIELD there are now psychologists embedded in all regional locations, delivering preventive assessments and early intervention based services.

In addition, we've reinvested more than \$15 million in Proceeds of Crime to support a number of police mental health initiatives, including the Police Mental Health and Wellbeing project and programs administered through Fortem Australia.

We have convened a cross-jurisdictional First Responder Mental Health Working group to progress a nationally consistent approach to post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological injuries.

We'll continue supporting the AFP's ongoing work with Comcare to fast-track PTSD claims processes, to ensure intervention at the earliest stage possible and the timely delivery of treatment and support services. And we'll work with the AFP, the AFPA, and across government to implement SHIELD and identify the best way to ensure that current and former AFP members can access treatment and support services.

As custodians of public safety, the community has the highest expectations of integrity from AFP appointees. We will commission a review of Part V of the AFP Act, and related elements of the Act, to provide assurance that these mechanisms achieve their objectives.

Your role in keeping our community safe, and protecting our official institutions, supports our robust democracy. Thank you for your service and be assured that, if re-elected, I will continue being a strong voice for the AFP within Cabinet – ensuring you have what you need to keep us all safe.

Proposed article from Party for AFP Magazine

Through the pandemic we've faced many challenges to community safety – including serious organised crime gangs exploiting opportunities for their dangerous trade in illicit drugs, firearms and child exploitation.

Crime today is more organised and sophisticated than ever before, and its effects continue to reach into the hearts of our communities.

That's why, under the Coalition's plan to keep our communities safe, we have stepped up the fight on organised criminals – targeting their gangs, making sure their illicit drugs don't hit our streets, and going after their money. We're making sure the AFP and our law enforcement agencies police have the technology, resources and legislative backing they need to shut down criminals wherever they operate – including on the dark web.

We're also reinvesting criminals' ill-gotten gains back into the AFP and other law enforcement agencies to fund new capabilities to tackle evolving criminal threats.

The Morrison Government has a strong track record of being tough on crime and investing in our police to keep our communities safe.

A re-elected Morrison Government will keep backing our police and law enforcement agencies by:

- Continuing our record funding for the AFP – which has grown by 1000 members with an annual budget of more than \$1.7 billion
- Boosting efforts to tackle serious organised crime and child exploitation with new Strike Teams to focus on criminal activity on the dark web;
- Taking more money from criminals to invest into community safety projects;
- Boosting the high-end capability our law enforcement agencies to ensure they have the tools they need to tackle sophisticated crime networks.
- Putting in place the powers and laws police need to tackle crime, including on the dark web.
- Continuing to fund the AFP's development and modernisation of enhanced technical capabilities to catch criminals in the act.
- Supporting implementation of SHIELD health services, and continuing our work with States and Territories on a national approach to presumptive legislation for PTSD and other psychological injuries.
- Working with the AFP, the AFPA, and across government to implement SHIELD and identify the best way to ensure that current and former AFP members can access treatment and support services.

The Morrison Government knows that a strong AFP is vital to our plan for a safe community, and a stronger future. And we've got the track record to show we can be trusted to deliver for the AFP, so the AFP can deliver for the community.