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## AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

### RECIDIVIST OFFENDER RAMS POLICE CAR, COMMITS FURTHER OFFENCES AND STILL GETS BAIL

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) is repeating its call for ACT Attorney-General Shane Rattenbury MLA to conduct an urgent review into bail and sentencing.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said the bail of Mr Aubrey Agostino, as reported in yesterday's Canberra Times<sup>1</sup>, is just the latest example of poor decision-making by the ACT judiciary.

"Mr Agostino is a recidivist offender. He deliberately rammed a police vehicle with a stolen car displaying stolen number plates, while driving unlicensed and after allegedly earlier committing offences since his release from prison.

"Notwithstanding these alleged incidents and his prior criminal history, he was bailed. This was despite the Director of Public Prosecutions' opposition to bail, to which the special magistrate agreed with the 'real and significant' concerns," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA acknowledges that the ACT Attorney-General said that he was open to reform at a recent meeting, however the Association's position is that the common-sense approach would be to conduct a review before reform.

Mr Alex Caruana questioned why someone would consider reform before a review, unless they already knew there were issues.

"This is another example of the ACT Government putting the cart in front of the horse. How can meaningful reform occur when you don't know what needs reforming? What consultation has the Attorney-General undertaken that makes him believe current sentencing and bail practices are consistent, aligned with community expectations and providing a suitable outcome for victims?

The AFPA will also be writing to the ACT Auditor-General about the performance of the ACT courts.

#### For comments:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7857226/criminal-with-contemptuous-history-allegedly-crashed-into-police-car/?cs=14329>