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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH ACT ATTORNEY-GENERAL NEEDS TO PROTECT ACT COMMUNITY

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) is publicly challenging ACT Attorney-General Shane Rattenbury to start doing his job and protecting Canberra's citizens and police officers.

Yesterday (Sunday 14 August 2022) afternoon ACT Policing members put their lives on the line to stop a drug-affected 29-year-old man driving erratically in south Canberra. The man was on bail at the time of the offence.

AFPA President Alex Caruana has had enough.

"This is another example of the judiciary failing the ACT community and ACT Policing. I know I'm sounding like a broken record, but at what stage will the ACT Attorney-General admit that a review into sentencing and bail is required? How much more evidence does he need?"

"The sentencing and bail processes in this city are fundamentally flawed and dangerously inadequate. Recidivist offenders are being released without consideration for the harm they cause the community by re-offending. Do more families need to go through heartbreak before the Attorney-General will show some leadership on this issue?"

"ACT Policing are doing their job in trying conditions, and clearly without the support of the judiciary and the Attorney-General. Policing is risky enough without having recidivist offenders on bail, intensive correction orders, or suspended sentences trying to mow them down while they commit further offences," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA is insisting that the Attorney-General starts putting the welfare of the ACT community and ACT Policing members above that of serial criminals.

Mr Caruana questioned the logic of not commencing a review into sentencing and bail processes, wondering whether the Attorney-General had something to hide.

"By refusing to establish a review of sentencing and bail in the ACT, the Attorney-General is clearly saying that he doesn't want a spotlight on the judiciary. Why not? That is a question only he can answer, and it is an answer he owes the ACT community and ACT Policing members.

"Who is holding the judiciary to account? If not the Attorney-General, then who?" Mr Caruana said.

For comments:

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