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## AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

### SPIN SPIN AND MORE SPIN FROM ACT ATTORNEY-GENERAL

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) opines that if over 60 percent of judicial appeals are successful in a higher court, then something must clearly be wrong with decisions being made in the lower courts.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the ACT Attorney-General must be reading from the same playbook as Scott Morrison when it comes to putting a positive spin on damning statistics.

"If the total number of appeals to a higher court is significantly up from previous years and over 60 percent of referrals made are successful, then obviously errors are being made in the lower courts.

"This is why we are calling for an independent inquiry into bail and sentencing. How much ACT taxpayers' money has the Director of Public Prosecution spent on appealing sentences, where the sentence fell short of community standards?

"The ACT Attorney-General is partly right; it is about accountability, but what happens to the people making these decisions that are ultimately overturned?

"If it was a police officer or public servant making these decisions that are being questioned and overturned at near record levels, what would happen to them? In most cases, they'd find themselves explaining themselves to committees, government, or integrity commissions. That is proper accountability and transparency." Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA strongly encourages all Canberrans to consider signing three petitions currently on the ACT Legislative Assembly petition page. The three petitions, [EPET-22-023](#), [EPET-22-024](#), and [EPET-22-025](#), can be found at <https://epetitions.parliament.act.gov.au/search/current>

#### For comments:

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