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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HINTS AT BETTER BARGAINING AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ENVIRONMENT

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes the Federal Government's announcement of a three per cent increase in wages across the Australian Public Service.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that this announcement was a good first step towards rebuilding the public service broadly, but that more needed to be done to assist the Australian Federal Police (AFP) specifically.

"The AFP has been hamstrung for a long time, with previous governments viewing them as a traditional public service department and tying them to the workplace bargaining framework which dangerously impacted an operational law enforcement agency.

"As a consequence of the workplace bargaining policy and low wage growth overseen by previous governments, AFP appointees are among the most poorly paid police officers in the country. To address this issue, we are calling on the government to work with us and the AFP to develop an enterprise agreement that is fit and proper for a law enforcement agency," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA has been campaigning to have the AFP removed from the Public Sector Workplace Relations Policy since 2018.

Mr Caruana said that the AFP is a unique entity needing flexibility and ultimately complete exemption from the policy to ensure that Australia and Australians are protected.

"Previously, we have seen the lack of flexibility in the policy impact on the operational activities and capabilities of the AFP.

"AFP appointees are not traditional public servants, and the AFP isn't a traditional public service department. We'll be writing to the Attorney-General and the Minister for the Public Services, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, requesting a meeting to discuss the AFP's exemption, or partial exception, from the policy.

"We want to create an enterprise agreement that is fair for all AFP appointees, as well as the AFP. Under the current policy, we can't do that," Mr Caruana said.

For comments:

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