

6 February 2023



MEDIA RELEASE

AFPA SUPPORTS MOTION TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR ACT POLICING

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes the motion to be introduced by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA concerning ACT Policing and online reporting.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that it was pleasing to see Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly take a keen interest in ACT Policing and thanked Dr Paterson for taking the time to raise the motion.

“Any initiative to reduce the frontline workload of an under-resourced ACT Policing needs to be seriously considered.

“Our hesitancy comes from thinking that technology may be seen as a substitute for a police officer attending in person. If technology can make reporting to police more accessible, streamlined, and easy to use, then it’s a good thing — but it doesn’t replace a police officer.

“We don’t want to see a situation where online reporting means that the ACT Government won’t increase police boots on the ground when it’s evident that ACT Policing needs more officers and resources.

“ACT Policing is a thin blue line. While crime rates are relatively stable, calls to services are ever-increasing, putting pressure on ACT Policing members and resources. Not every police attendance results in a recorded crime statistic— using these numbers as an indication of workload isn’t reliable,” Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA supports Dr Paterson’s call for a substantial community awareness and education campaign to accompany the rollout of online reporting.

For comments:

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