

9 August 2023



MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT REGARDING MS BRITTANY HIGGINS SOCIAL MEDIA POST

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) notes the social media post made by Ms Brittany Higgins regarding the conduct of ACT Policing members.

The Association refers to Mr Walter Sofronoff KC Inquiry that found while police investigating the allegations made mistakes, they acted in good faith and conducted a thorough investigation.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that ACT Policing had accepted nearly all the recommendations from the Inquiry without reservation and that two recommendations require further consultation.

"While I acknowledge that mistakes can't be undone, ACT Policing has done the right thing and apologised to Ms Higgins. I know that ACT Policing is committed, as demonstrated by accepting the Inquiry's recommendations to ensure that mistakes like this don't occur again." Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA respectfully reminds the community that the ACT Policing members involved in the investigation and Inquiry have also been impacted while acknowledging the impact on other parties.

AFPA President Alex Caruana urges the community to be mindful of hurtful allegations towards all parties involved in the investigation and Inquiry.

"There are no winners from this investigation and Inquiry. This investigation and subsequent Inquiry have hurt and damaged many people. In a perfect world, that wouldn't happen, but as we all sadly know, a perfect world isn't reality.

"The AFPA and I, as President, will continue to stand by the members who were part of the investigation team and presented evidence at the Inquiry. We know these people and how much of an impact this has had on them and their families. They are all passionate about being police officers, protecting the community and putting people before a judicial process if required. Police can't control what a jury member does, nor can they control how a judicial process will conclude.

"I strongly believe that ACT Policing is committed to supporting complainants and victims of criminal offences in the ACT, including sexual assaults. ACT Policing has a victim-centric approach, and I would encourage people to read the media release issued yesterday by ACT Policing and the Chief Police Officer." Mr Caruana said.

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