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MEDIA RELEASE

AFPA ACKNOWLEDGES ACT GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOFRONOFF KC INQUIRY

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) acknowledges and welcomes the ACT Government's response to the final report by Mr Sofronoff KC regarding the Board of Inquiry into the Criminal Justice System in the ACT.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the recommendations and the ACT Government's response are sensible and will strengthen the ACT criminal justice system.

"The recommendations and ACT Government response are well considered and a credit to the inquiry and how it was managed before the current situation regarding the report's release.

"I want to thank the Chief Minister and Attorney-General for the consultation with ACT Policing on the recommendations. I look forward to seeing the positive outcomes that the agreed recommendations will bring and the further consultation regarding the two recommendations that the ACT Government wants to discuss further," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA supports and echoes the ACT Attorney-General Shane Rattenbury MLA's statement regarding the community coming forward to report criminal behaviour.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that while the AFPA and the Attorney-General differ in some opinions, especially about bail and sentencing, we are on the same page regarding people coming forward and seeking justice.

"I urge every person affected by criminal behaviour in the ACT to come forward and report the incident to ACT Policing. The ACT criminal justice system handles cases very well as a general rule. Our main concerns regarding the criminal justice system come from sentencing and bail, not how the justice system is managed within the ACT.

"We strongly believe that everyone involved in the criminal justice system has good intentions and will continue to work collaboratively to support victims, their families and the judicial processes in seeking justice.

"The Attorney-General is 100 percent correct. This case was like no other, and the community should not be discouraged from coming forward. Don't let one case stop you from reporting a criminal matter," Mr Caruana said.

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