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MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT REGARDING THE SOFRONOFF REPORT

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) acknowledges the public reporting of the Sofronoff Report and urges the ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr to release the report in its entirety.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the public reporting confirms the suspicions the AFPA held regarding the trial of Mr Lehrmann.

"While we welcomed the Inquiry, we knew it would be the only way to reveal the truth. We were always confident that the investigating officers had conducted a thorough and professional investigation from day one. It's disappointing that valuable ACT taxpayer money was spent due to allegations now found to be wholly false and made up. We thank Mr Sofronoff KC and the Inquiry Board for the way they conducted the Inquiry.

"While we haven't seen the Sofronoff Report, nor the recommendations, if the public reports are accurate, it's clear that ACT Policing members conducted a proper and professional investigation. Using the words in the public domain, the investigators performed their duties in absolute good faith, with great determination, although faced with obstacles, and put together a sound case.

"During the Inquiry, ACT Policing members demonstrated accountability, honesty, and transparency, which is reflected in the public reporting. The ACT Policing officers made admissions to their errors and owned them. Sexual assault investigations are among the hardest to conduct, even more so when you have a high level of national scrutiny. I commend all members involved in the investigation and those who appeared before the Inquiry," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA believes that with this public reporting, the ACT Government must immediately release the report.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that it's a welfare issue for all people involved in the Inquiry, and given the leaked report is already in the public domain, there is no point in delaying its release.

"With the report being leaked, the ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr and ACT Attorney-General Shane Rattenbury should release the report in its entirety. We know that the number of people who received the report was minimal; not even ACT Policing had seen the report. There is no point in hiding or sugarcoating the information and recommendations. In some cases, it's clear what needs to occur.

"The ACT Government should also consider the possibility of investigating who leaked the report and the option that the ACT Chief Justice can refer a matter about professional conduct to the Australian Federal Police for criminal investigation.

"Given what we've read in the public domain, it's quite clear that further action by the ACT Government is required. There is no reason to delay the release any further. They can release the report today and consider the recommendations in due course. They can also offer support where needed, so the healing of all the people involved in the Inquiry can begin," Mr Caruana said.

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