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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

BAIL AFTER ALLEGEDLY FRACTURING A CHILD'S SKULL – ONLY IN THE ACT

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) is disgusted and horrified after a 29-year-old man and a 28-year-old woman were granted bail in the ACT Magistrates Court after being accused of seriously injuring a four-year-old boy, allegedly leaving the child with a fractured skull and other injuries.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the 29-year-old man was granted bail one day after the co-accused was also granted bail.

“The man was already on parole for serious offences and now gets bail after a four-year-old child in his care has allegedly been repeatedly struck with a blunt circular object, leaving him with a fractured skull and other injuries.

“The ACT community should be in uproar and disgusted with the decision to bail the alleged offender. We are talking about a vulnerable four-year-old child who has sustained possible life-altering injuries.

“The ACT Attorney-General needs to explain to the ACT community why these alleged offenders got bail after such serious accusations. The ACT judiciary needs to be transparent and accountable and tell the community why alleged offenders like this are getting bail. There should be no presumption for bail for people who have allegedly assaulted children or vulnerable people,” Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA is again calling on the ACT Government and ACT Attorney-General to commence an independent review of bail and sentencing in the ACT.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that bail has become normal in the ACT when it should be considered a privilege.

“The ACT Government and ACT judiciary has created an environment where there is an expectation, regardless of the offence committed, that a person will receive bail. That needs to change. We have a four-year-old victim with a fractured skull and other life-altering injuries, and the alleged offenders are allowed to walk the streets. In what reality is that okay?” Mr Caruana said.

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