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MEDIA RELEASE

“LIFE-SAVING” PRESUMPTIVE LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes today’s announcement from Industrial Relations Minister Tony Burke confirming the introduction of presumptive legislation for AFP appointees and other first responders.

The AFPA first began campaigning for presumptive legislation in 2018 under former President Angela Smith, with current President Alex Caruana continuing to heavily advocate for such legislation in the years since.

Mr Caruana said today was a monumental day for the AFPA and all AFP appointees.

"Minister Burke and his office have been instrumental in championing our push for presumptive legislation to support AFP appointees who sustain psychological injuries as a result of their duties protecting the community. I would also like to thank all those, particularly Senator David Pocock and Senator Jacqui Lambie, who supported this important legislative change.

"This outcome is legacy-making, and I hope Minister Burke reflects on the important significance of this outcome and what has been achieved. Without a doubt, this will save the lives of AFP appointees and other first responders — we cannot thank him, Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, and the Albanese Government enough for their support," Mr Caruana said.

Presumptive legislation has not created any new workers’ compensation benefits or entitlements for eligible AFP appointees; rather, it is designed to make it quicker and easier for eligible appointees to claim and access existing workers’ compensation entitlements and potentially life-saving treatment earlier.

Mr Caruana said that presumptive legislation would ensure that AFP appointees and other first responders get the help they need immediately for psychological injuries instead of being stifled by red tape.

"The previous regime was complicated and slow, often leaving appointees in limbo while waiting to see if their claim was successful. Presumptive legislation will mean that appointees can commence treatment earlier to assist in their recovery journey.

"This is a real game changer for the treatment of AFP appointees’ psychological injuries. The quicker someone receives treatment, the better the outcomes are," Mr Caruana said.

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