



# Police Federation of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

Level 1, 21 Murray Cres, GRIFFITH ACT 2603

(02) 6239 8900

[www.pfa.org.au](http://www.pfa.org.au)

[pfa@pfa.org.au](mailto:pfa@pfa.org.au)

## Media Release

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The Police Federation of Australia believes any attempt to wind back, disallow or prevent police being compensated for accepting work related calls while off duty is short sighted, disrespectful, and wrong.

PFA Chief Executive Scott Weber said “Due to the 24-hour role of policing there’s often instances where senior police call an off-duty police officer, sometimes after midnight, requesting information or paperwork that could have been dealt with when the officer was next on duty. As police we understand there are operational requirements for this to occur, but police should always be paid for this otherwise it is simply wage theft.”

Most States of Australia have provisions for their police forces protecting police’s ‘right to disconnect’. Under the provisions if a police officer is contacted off duty there is an entitlement for overtime to be paid, and the costs to the Police Service increase the longer a call and disruption continues. New South Wales and South Australia do not have it, and at this very moment Tasmania and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) are in negotiations to achieve the ‘right to disconnect’ for their police”

Mr Weber said “since this entitlement was put in place in jurisdictions across Australia, I am advised after-hours calls have dropped significantly and senior police have become far more reasonable, respectful, and responsible in their demands. This has led to a better work-life balance for hardworking frontline police.”

The PFA objects to Peter Dutton and the LNP proposing to repeal these measures if they were to ever form Government. Mr Weber said “this is particularly odd considering Federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton once had a career as a frontline police officer and later as a detective. I’d ask Mr Dutton to remember when senior police would have made similar calls to him, probably on the old landline.”

Police Unions and Associations across Australia are embracing the success of ‘right to disconnect’ provisions and support those States wishing to achieve these industrial protections in their own negotiations with their respective jurisdictions.

The PFA is calling all members of the Federal Opposition, and those who are unsupportive on the cross bench, to have a significant rethink on Mr Dutton’s position on ‘right to disconnect’ as this will have a significant negative impact for all first responders. Mr Dutton should unwind this ill-conceived thought bubble.