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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFPA PROTECTED INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) can confirm that protected industrial action (PIA) commenced over the weekend at locations around Australia.

The action is slated to ramp up over the coming weeks as a core part of the AFPA's campaign to improve pay and conditions for all Australian Federal Police (AFP) appointees.

AFPA members from Adelaide and Melbourne Airport commenced targeted and focused action at the same time as many people travelled to Adelaide for the Australian Football League 'Gather Round'.

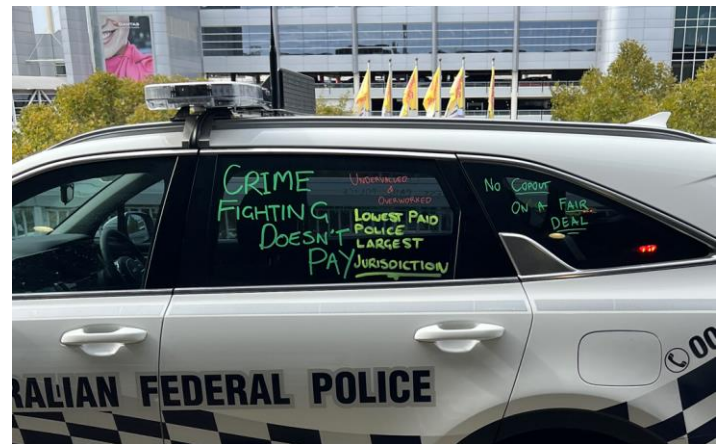
AFPA President Alex Caruana said that this first phase of PIA was primarily intended to educate the public about the fact that AFP sworn officers are the lowest-paid officers in the country.

"We deliberately commenced in Melbourne and Adelaide, and you'll see more AFP vehicle marked up in locations around Australia over the next few weeks.

"AFP appointees keep children safe from child exploitation. They are on the frontline when it comes to human trafficking, terrorism, cybercrime, people smuggling and international drug imports into Australia.

"The Federal Government continues to treat them like traditional public servants when they are anything but," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA has significant concerns that the AFP will be effectively unable to recruit new members or attract experienced officers from other forces if the Federal Government's current pay offer isn't improved.



Mr Caruana said every police service across Australia was competing for the best officers and that the AFP and Federal Government could not ignore the fact that AFP members were the lowest-paid officers in the country. “During the last spillover Senate Estimates, it was disappointing to see the AFP Executive seemingly celebrating the fact that AFP police officers, with allowances, were the fifth-best paid police officers in the country. In this case, fifth best equals third last. Base salary data is clear that AFP sworn police officers are the lowest base paid officers in the country. The AFP was previously regarded as the premier law enforcement agency in the country, a regard which was reflected by comparatively high pay and allowances.

“The AFP is the law enforcement body of the Commonwealth, and the Federal Government obviously sees merit in its continued existence. As directed by the Federal Remuneration Tribunal, the AFP Commissioner is one of the highest-paid Commissioners in Australia.

“Yet the Federal Government chooses to keep AFP appointees as the lowest-paid police officers in the country, or the third-worst paid police officers in the country if you factor in allowances. That really is disrespectful to the hardworking AFP workforce striving to keep communities across Australia safe,” Mr Caruana said.

AFPA industrial action will continue for the foreseeable future, and additional protected actions will be periodically rolled out at targeted AFP work locations.

Mr Caruana said protecting the Australian community was still a priority for all AFP appointees undertaking PIA.

“We still expect our members to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. If an emergency or high-priority incident occurs, we’ve requested that all members suspend any PIA and focus on the incident.

“If you see an AFP appointee undertaking PIA, go up and have a friendly chat with them. They’ll welcome the opportunity to speak about their work conditions. You’ll soon realise that they are no different to other Australians struggling with cost-of-living pressures and not feeling respected by the Federal Government,” Mr Caruana said.

For comments: AFPA Media and Government Relations Manager – Mr Troy Roberts – media@afpa.org.au