



Media Release

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ACT GOVERNMENT STUMPS UP IN BUDGET TO SUPPORT ACT POLICING MEMBERS

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) thanks the ACT Government for their support of ACT Policing members by announcing the commitment to pay increases as part of enterprise bargaining negotiations and the expansion of the Police, Ambulance, and Clinician Early Response team (PACER) in the recent budget announcements.

AFP President Alex Caruana said that these budget initiatives will assist ACT Policing members on the ground and shows support that would be welcomed by the members.

“The ongoing funding for the second PACER team is critical to support, not only police, but the community. PACER as a model works. It provides the appropriate response to a mental health incident where there is no violence or public safety concerns, while also keeping important policing resources where they are needed, which is on the road.

“PACER has clearly shown positive results. The people assisted by PACER are better off as they get a holistic response to their health concern and are diverted from the criminal justice environment into the health environment,” Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA continues to negotiate with the AFP regarding a new enterprise agreement.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the AFP has stalled negotiations as they await the results of a staff survey; which they should already know the answers too.

“The workforce voted no for very obvious reasons, and if the AFP hasn’t been able to work that out then they need to better engage and understand their members.

“The ACT Government committing to supporting ACT Policing on the wage front is a positive outcome, and I sincerely thank them for that.

“Moving forward I would like to see new police stations and a watch house along with additional police officers as part of the budget process and I look forward to talking with the ACT Government on these issues.

“Unfortunately, their federal Labor colleagues do not share the same sentiment when it comes to respecting and supporting the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and its members.

“It is fair to say that police officers are not traditional public servants, and the ACT community greatly benefits from the experience and capability of the AFP. It is also fair to say that the AFP should not be hamstrung by public services conditions and policies that do not work for a 24/7 operational policing organisation. If only the Albanese Government understood this.

“The Federal Government should look at the goodwill and support provided by the ACT Government and have a serious think about how they could better support AFP members,” Mr Caruana said.

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