

Media Release

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ANOTHER GOVERNMENT REFERRAL FOR THE LOWEST BASE PAID POLICE IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) notes recent media coverage regarding the Federal Government's request that the Australian Federal Police (AFP) investigate allegations of corruption made against the Construction, Forestry, and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU).

The AFPA welcomes the federal government's confidence in the AFP and its hardworking members and supports Minister Tony Burke MP's statement that the primary function of any union is to look after its members' interests.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that while allegations of corruption such as those made against the CFMEU should indeed be referred to the AFP for investigation, it was ironic that more pressure and reliance was being placed on an agency that was chronically underpaid and under-resourced.

"The Federal Government relies heavily on the AFP as its national law enforcement agency. One would reasonably therefore think the Federal Government would want to support this workforce and ensure they are remunerated fairly and appropriately.

"The Federal Government does not, in fact, support them — and I am happy for this statement to be proved wrong. The AFP's most recent survey indisputably showed that remuneration was a key concern for members, with four out of five (79%) respondents dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with a base salary increase of 11.2 per cent over three years. The Federal Government is very aware of this primary data.

"Will the Federal Government and its key decision makers, such as Minister for the Public Service Senator Katy Gallagher and Federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus KC, continue to ignore and disrespect the members of the AFP?" Mr Caruana asked.

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