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MEDIA RELEASE

AFPA SUPPORTS POSSIBLE NSW POLICE INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) supports the possible industrial action planned by the Police Association of New South Wales (PANSW), which would see NSW Police officers cease any cooperation with Commonwealth agencies or departments unless the matter creates a risk to a person's life or their physical and mental wellbeing.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said the Federal Government tends to forget that it has responsibility for all of Australia's law enforcement workforces. The AFPA sees and feels the consequences of this lack of action every day.

"For quite a long time, law enforcement members have been overlooked by the same people they look after — federal politicians, senior public officials, and bureaucrats. They seem quite content for AFP members and other law enforcement officers to take a bullet for them, yet aren't willing to help those same members who struggle financially, physically, mentally and emotionally.

"The Government could make life-saving changes immediately but chooses not to. AFP appointees are the lowest base-paid officers in the country. They receive zero government-sponsored medical or mental health intervention during their retirement, even after giving years of service to the community," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA is continuing its call for the Federal Government to start supporting its police officers at the same level as its military personnel, especially upon their retirement.

"It's a national disgrace that an AFP officer giving 30 years of service to protect the community and the interests of Australia is left with no retirement support for injuries sustained on the job.

"It's not rocket science. Give police the pay rise they deserve, provide ongoing health treatment in retirement for employment-related injuries, and allow the AFPA and the AFP to negotiate an enterprise agreement that doesn't treat the employees and organisation as public servants.

"Past and present Federal Governments have not treated AFP members well. We are still fighting for simple mental health legislation that would save lives; why we must justify something so obviously important beggars belief. Police officers risk their lives daily wearing the uniform; it would be nice for the Federal Government to acknowledge this properly." Mr Caruana said.

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