

POLICE ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Former Victorian Supreme Court Judge calls for stronger assault sentencing in line with Tasmanian Police Association

The Police Association of Tasmania has welcomed the comments of the former Victorian Supreme Court Judge who stated that courts need to give significantly more attribution to personal responsibility in violent crimes.

The Association is particularly concerned about the lack of attribution to personal responsibility in sentencing assaults against police officers and emergency workers.

Police Association President Sergeant Randolph Wierenga said that what we have seen in Tasmania is exactly the issue raised by Justice Cummins – courts failing to attribute personal responsibility for offenders who assault police.

“What we've seen in Tasmania is increasingly brazen and callous attacks on police.

“While police accept that their job is dangerous, police and the community expect all that could be done to make the job safe should be done.

“What we've seen in sentencing is people being let off with slaps on the wrist and inconsequential fines.

“Attacking a police officer or emergency service worker is a choice, as Justice Cummins notes, and it must be accorded in judgements.

“Given the track record in sentencing, we need to have a level of minimum sentencing to ensure that the community can have confidence

that sentences include personal responsibility of assailants," Sergeant Wierenga said.

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