



# POLICE ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **PAT welcomes minimum sentence announcement**

The Police Association of Tasmania welcomes today's announcement by the Tasmanian Liberals to introduce minimum sentencing for serious assaults against police and emergency service workers.

Police Association President Sergeant Randolph Wierenga said it was an important announcement in making safer the valuable work police, emergency and child protection officers do.

"This announcement, if it becomes law, will send a strong message that such violent assaults are unacceptable.

"Police and emergency service workers should not have to put themselves in unnecessary risks simply to make the community safer. Under the current situation, people who choose to assault police can be let off with just a slap on the wrists – and this is unacceptable.

"Frontline police accept that their job is a dangerous one, but put simply, they expect that everything that can be done to make it safer that can be. This includes having proper and meaningful consequences to putting an officer's health at risk.

"Today's announcement says to anyone who chooses to assault a police or emergency services officer – you will serve a minimum term behind bars.

"From the evidence we have seen in other states, we anticipate that this measure will reduce the rate of assaults. And we welcome this.

"As an apolitical organisation, we call upon all parties to support this valuable improvement to the way we as a community respond to assaults against police," Sergeant Wierenga said.

**Randolph Wierenga will be available for comment at Civic Square, Launceston at 3.30 PM.**

For more information please call Adrian Dodd on 0401 726 476