



# POLICE ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

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## **Single Officer Patrols could 'leave officers helpless'**

The Police Association of Tasmania (PAT) has called on the Bartlett Government to bring an end to single officer patrols to avoid the situation that occurred in Victoria where a police officer was killed with his own gun after having his gun snatched on a one man patrol.

Coroner Kim Parkinson, who examined the death of the Victorian officer, recommended that single officer patrols be abolished, because they could 'leave officers helpless'.

Sergeant Randolph Wierenga said that the Association had been concerned about the safety of officers patrolling alone for some time and called for more front-line numbers to ensure police are not placed at risk patrolling one-up.

"The safety of police protecting the community is the number one concern of the Association.

The Coroner recommended that the practice of working one up be abolished in circumstances involving high risk activities and late night and remote area intercepts. These activities continue to be practised in Tasmania

"No one wants to see officers injured, and in this respect, the coroner's report is clear. Ending one man patrols is a must, and in Tasmania we are going to need more officers to ensure the community is protected and served to the levels it expects.

"Police safety is our number one priority and the Government needs to provide proper funding to allow police officers to work safely and protect the community.

For more information please call Adrian Dodd on 0401726476