



Media Release

EMBARGO Wednesday June 23, 2010

Australia can be safer if national policing standards are adopted

The Police Federation of Australia calls for national standards to be adopted in a range of important areas to provide safer communities, more effective policing strategies and more efficient use of police resources.

As part their push for national policing standards, the Police Federation of Australia has released its policy document “**Creating a Safer Australia**” which states that as crime is a national problem, there needs to be a national response.

Police Federation of Australia President Vince Kelly said that there needed to be a national approach to focus on the methods, tactics and strategies which have been proven to work at a national level and to end the over-politicisation of the law and order issue that occurs at the state level.

The policy document presents a number of priorities for the federal government to consider adopting national standards in, including:

- Australian Crime Prevention Program
- National Standards for Young Drivers
- Serious, Organised and Proceeds of Crime
- National Police Workforce Planning
- Collaborative Purchasing – Police Uniforms and Equipment
- Advanced Systems, Technologies and information for Policing
- Liquor Licensing Reforms to Tackle Alcohol related Violence
- Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault
- Police Pursuits
- National law enforcement staffing and financial issues
- Major airport policing
- Policing in indigenous communities
- Police Parliamentary Program

PFA President, Vince Kelly said that policing could be offered the same benefits as a national health care system or a national curriculum by adopting national standards.

“Crime doesn’t respect our state’s borders, and as police, we need to be confident that across the nation, we are all singing from the same rap sheet.

“Policing is very similar in each state, and we know that Australians can be safer if we adopt world’s best technology and the strategies which are clearly working well around the country.

“Police across Australia need access to the best information, including hand held devices for police on the beat, automated number plate recognition technology for highway patrol cars, ensuring all



states have access to all relevant information including drivers license numbers and improving information sharing between states, and England and New Zealand.

“If we were able to set policing standards at a national level as indicated in this document, we have no doubt that every Australian community could safer.

“An Australian Crime Prevention program with specifically tailored prevention programs for Indigenous communities could ensure that the successes currently being implemented in some states could be extended across the country.

“Crime prevention strategies could also be greatly effective in reducing alcohol fuelled binge drinking and violence.

“Organised crime currently costs Australia in excess of \$10-15bn per year, most of which goes off shore. Fighting serious and organised crime is tough work, particularly when there isn't the national infrastructure through sharing information and the most appropriate national legislation, in the same way we currently look at terrorism.

“To combat organised crime, we need to take a national approach with international capacities. We also need enhanced legislation and policy and a boost in resources for the Australian Crime Commission.

“We also need a national approach to dealing with liquor licensing reforms in an effort to tackle the scourge of binge drinking. We call on standard, nationwide laws to reform liquor licensing aimed at reducing the harm and violence of young people.

“The PFA also calls upon the Federal Government to consider closely the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. While 1 in 3 women are a victim of domestic violence and 1 in 5 are a victim of sexual abuse – a national approach must be taken.

“After several tragic police pursuit earlier this year, the PFA is calling for the national adoption of changes to operation strategy and new technological options being utilised in the USA which make police pursuits safer. The technology, called Star Chase, allows police to fire a tag onto cars they are pursuing to enable them to be tracked from radio dispatch.

“Using this option, would allow for safer communities by limiting the dangerous police pursuits police currently are forced to engage in.

“We also use this opportunity to call for the establishment of a police parliamentary program which would allow MPs and Senators to witness firsthand what policing in their electorates is like.

For more information please call Adrian Dodd on 0401 726 476