

The political parties looking for your vote at this federal election have told the Police Federation of Australia what they offer for police and policing.

If it's **the hip pocket** that interests you most

- The ALP's promise to increase the **superannuation guarantee from 9 to 12 %** starting in 2013 looks attractive to police in N.S.W., W.A., N.T., Tas, and in S.A. It would mean a boost to super of up to **\$73,870 or 17%** more over a working life for about 20,000 police officers. The Coalition is not supporting this.
- But the Coalition's policy on **paid parental leave** is much more generous than Labor's 18 week scheme which starts on 1 January 2011 regardless of the election outcome. Tony Abbott's scheme, to begin in 2013, would provide 6 month's paid leave at the woman's salary (rather than the minimum wage under the ALP's legislated scheme).
- The Australian Greens are also supporting the rise in **super contributions** to 12% and, later, to 15%, something the PFA has argued for.

In terms of **police numbers**

- The Coalition proposes \$95 million to recruit 200 investigators from the States into the Australian Crime Commission to form a National Violent Gangs Squad to fight serious and organised crime.
- The ALP has promised to exceed the 500 extra AFP sworn police over five years that it committed to in 2007 (at \$215 million) and has announced funds for 50% more bomb detection dogs and handlers, and more sworn police at Australia's eleven major airports, increasing numbers at airports from 380 to over 700 sworn police.

To improve community safety, all three parties are supporting the PFA's proposed **Australian Crime Prevention Program** which this time will involve police with local communities and organisations. The Coalition has promised \$50 million over four years for this grants scheme. The ALP proposes a program of more than \$50 million covering crime prevention, safer suburbs and secure schools grants from Proceeds of Crime Act funding. The Greens will also support the new program.

In relation to **recognition of police**, the ALP policy highlights its work, with the PFA, establishing the criteria and design for a National Police Service Medal. The Gillard Government has promised, if re-elected, to commence awarding the medal once the Queen approves the criteria and regulations. The Coalition has not made a commitment about the Medal, but we are confident that, if elected, they would support the proposal. The Greens have expressed support for measures providing better recognition of Australia's police.

In relation to **workers' compensation**, the ALP has agreed to look at anomalies affecting the AFP (the PFA has raised the case of journey claims) so that if workers' compensation is harmonized in future, poorer arrangements like that don't flow on to State police. The Coalition has decided not to oppose the reinstatement of journey claim provisions. The Greens support reinstating journey claims.

The ALP has also promised to implement an ongoing compensation scheme for police officers serving overseas, particularly in high risk missions, so that they receive equitable compensation that is comparable with the Australian Defence Force. The Greens support new workers' compensation legislation for police serving overseas. The Coalition is silent on this issue.

On **occupational health and safety**, Labor has undertaken that the new national system of OH&S will recognize the unique risks of police work and that the model Work Health and Safety Act will not exempt any police force from complying with health and safety obligations. The Coalition is committed to ensuring the risks to police are minimized and acknowledges the benefit of harmonizing state and territory laws to ensure national consistency. The Greens support harmonization, but with the strongest laws, not a weak compromise.

To address **serious and organized crime**, the Gillard Labor Government will establish a new Asset Confiscation Taskforce to maximize confiscations and will tackle serious gang and criminal network activity. The Coalition has promised \$179 million for a National Violent Gangs Database and a National Violent Gangs Squad in the Australian Crime Commission. The Greens support the fight against organized crime with reservations about individuals' privacy and legal and human rights.

How we achieved these commitments

To achieve these and a range of other commitments from each party, the PFA produced a detailed 2010 pre-election policy document – *Creating a Safer Australia – Police Federation of Australia's Plan 2010-13*. The document was launched at Parliament House on Tuesday 22 June 2010. We also sent our policy document to each major party in June and sought their replies and commitments by early August so that we could advise Branches and members of the promises from each party before the election–21 August 2010.

The party commitments

We have summarized all the commitments from the three major parties in a table – **PFA Policies with Party Responses**. It allows you to easily compare what is on offer from each party on the ten priorities which the PFA raised and 19 other proposals we put forward. To see the table and compare policies, [click here](#) or go to the PFA website at www.pfa.org.au

If you would like to examine the full response from each of the three parties, they are available on the PFA website or you can access each response below:

- *[Building Police Capability for the future: Supporting fair working conditions and recruitment, retention and professional respect for Australia's police](#)*, Labor National Campaign Headquarters
- *[Coalition Response to the Police Federation of Australia](#)*, Coalition Campaign HQ
- *[Creating a Safer Australia](#)*, Australian Greens.