



Police Federation
of Australia

MEDIA RELEASE – 18 June 2007

FEDERAL POLICE NUMBERS AT CRITICAL LEVELS

A set of policies designed to boost law and order in Australia and address the critical levels of Federal Police in Australia will be presented to both sides of politics by the Police Federation of Australia (PFA) today.

10.30am

MONDAY 18 JUNE 2007

SENATE COURTYARD (Mural Hall if wet)

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, Canberra

WHO: Peter Alexander President Police Federation of Australia (PFA), Mark Burgess Chief Executive Officer PFA and representatives from state and territory police associations

The policies involve overcoming the shortfall in Federal police numbers, addressing the looming shortage of police across Australia by proper workforce planning for the future and setting up a state-of-the-art criminal investigation database system.

‘The Australian Federal Police (AFP), has had a cut in sworn police numbers of 16% over the last 21 years at a time when numerous extra functions from counter-terrorism, E-crime, airport security, child-sex offences are being performed by federal police.

‘These new demands, which the Australian Government and the community legitimately expect to be met, mean the AFP is stretched as never before,’ Mr Alexander said.

The PFA represents around 50,000 police officers across the country serving in capital cities, rural and regional Australia, and in remote communities.

‘A number of the initiatives we have put forward would contribute to more effective crime prevention and crime fighting, not just at Federal Police level, but in every State and Territory on the mainland,’ Peter Alexander said.

more over...



As well as addressing the critical level of federal police the issues directly affecting police in their workplaces are:

- establishing the first-ever national police registration scheme.
- concerns about the current Government's Work Choices legislation, including AWAs, particularly as it affects police officers;
- workers' compensation for injured officers; and
- a range of matters concerning officers of Australia's International Deployment Group serving overseas in places like East Timor.

The PFA will be discussing its proposals with leaders of the political parties in the lead-up to the election and publishing the commitments each party is prepared to make.

'We believe our major political parties need to demonstrate a real commitment to policing at the Federal Government level, and not simple focus on terrorism and leave the closer-to-home crime fighting to the States and Territories,' Mr Alexander said.

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For further information contact:

Mark Burgess
Chief Executive Officer
Police Federation of Australia
PH: 02 6239 8900
M: 0438 179 151

Peter Alexander
President
Police Federation of Australia
PH: 08 8212 3055
M: 0417 876 490

Ben Oquist, Essential Media Communications: 0419704095