



## Police Association of NSW – Answers to Questions on Notice

### Question 1

Mr Damien Tudehope: Are you aware of any case where someone has been charged with infecting a police officer with a communicable disease?

The PANSW is not aware of any official statistics of this category of charges.  
As stated when appearing before the Committee, we have become aware anecdotally of a specific case.

### Question 2

Ms Jenny Leong: Given the increases we have seen in drug and alcohol incidents, which you are concerned about, and violence, would the Police Association be supportive of the return of the drug and alcohol unit within the Department of Education?

The PANSW is not in a position to comment specifically on the best allocation of resources within the Department of Education, as we have no special expertise in relation to that Department.  
However, we can say we support any measures which improves responsible use of alcohol, reduces alcohol and drug abuse, and prevents violence associated with that abuse.

### Question 3

Ms Jenny Leong: Can you provide some additional information around the handover protocols currently occurring in that situation?

These protocols are contained in a Memorandum of Understanding between NSW Health, NSW Ambulance and the NSW Police Force. The Committee may wish to obtain the most recent version of that document from one of those agencies.

However, as stated before the Committee, the process established by the MoU and what occurs in reality is frequently inconsistent. This is due to the lack of resources available to the relevant agencies. Without increased staff and vehicles, it will often be the case that these agencies will be unable to deliver what is outlined in the MoU.

Therefore the PANSW believes the priority should be adequately resourcing these agencies to honour the protocols established by the MoU.

Our main concern is that people are transported in a health vehicle whenever possible, with police assistance if need be. When police have conducted/assisted in the transport of a person to a health facility, the ideal situation is that health staff and hospital security are sufficiently resourced to receive the person safely, and sufficient staff are available to promptly conduct the required health assessments, so police can return to their other duties in the quickest time possible.

### Question 4

Ms Jenny Leong: The final question is basically any evidence that you are able to provide us that actually mandatory sentencing of standard non-parole periods provides a reduction in the incidence of assaults?

The PANSW submission did not recommend the creation of any mandatory sentences. It did refer to

mandatory life sentences for murder of police officers, but existing provisions already establish this. In regards to standard non-parole periods, the PANSW submission did recommend the Committee consider:

- expanding existing violence-related offences to cover other emergency service workers, and
- adding relevant offences to the Table Standard non-parole periods under *the Crimes (Sentencing Procedures) Act*.

These sentencing issues were raised in the context of the Terms of Reference for this Inquiry, in particular 1.b. “whether current sentencing options for people who assault or murder emergency services personnel remain effective”.

As made clear by the PANSW submission, emergency services workers experience distress and feel betrayed by the criminal justice system when they suffer psychological injury and psychological trauma as a result of an offender’s violence, and then the offender experiences little to no consequences from their assault of a person serving the community. This is also a cause of considerable community dissatisfaction.

The PANSW submission also referenced this dissatisfaction with certain sentencing outcomes in the context of expressing the community’s intolerance for violence against emergency service workers, offender accountability, deterrence, and to recognise the harm done to the victim and the community by persons willing to assault emergency service workers. This is consistent with the purposes of sentencing outlined under section 3A of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act. As such, the requested information is something the PANSW has not compiled as it was not relevant to any recommendation contained in our submission.

### Question 5

Mr Edmond Atalla: My first question is in relation to assaults on police officers going to and from work. Do we collect any statistics on these types of assaults, for instance, police officers on their way to work?

The PANSW does not have these statistics.

### Question 6

The Chair: Regarding the lists in your submission, would you let the Committee know in writing the response from the police executive? Am I right to assume that you have raised these issues with the proper chain of command?

In the timeframe given to respond to these Questions on Notice, there was not sufficient time to formally write to the NSWPF and receive an official response to all the recommendations in our submission or at our appearance.

The PANSW has written to the NSWPF and will provide the response as soon as practicable.