



MEDIA RELEASE

Support and respect for police officers

Assaults on police impact both individual officers and the wider police force. They remove resources from the community and show a disregard for the justice system.

The Legislative Assembly's Committee on Law and Safety has released its report on assaults on members of the NSW Police Force. The Committee looked at issues including the incidence of assaults on officers and the support they receive to recover from them, and how well police community engagement programs are working.

"It's vital that officers injured in an assault, and their families, get the support they need to help them recover and return to work", said Committee Chair Wendy Tuckerman MP.

The Committee recommended a review of the support provided to injured officers to ensure it meets their needs. To reduce the strain on the police workforce, options to create a reserve pool of officers should also be considered to backfill temporary vacancies caused when officers are on sick leave

The actual number of assaults against police officers may also be under reported. "We need more research to better identify the true extent of assaults. This can also help to identify why and when assaults happen".

"Police work in places and deal with situations that can be difficult and confronting. It's vital they are prepared for the real life scenarios they will face, while ensuring their own safety." The Committee has recommended more mental health, resilience and cultural awareness training to improve the understanding and ability of officers to deal with the challenges they face.

Another issue raised was violence more broadly within the community, in particular individuals who re-offend. The Committee recommended consideration be given to establishing a violent offenders register. This would be part of a program aimed at addressing violent behaviour.

More resources to support police engagement through school liaison and with the PCYC are also recommended. "We support community outreach programs, particularly to children and young people, as they help instil respect for police and also help police understand the communities they serve".

"No police officer should suffer an assault. The aim of the report's recommendations and findings is to help give police a workplace where they can perform their duties as safely as possible".

The report is available on the Committee's [website](#).