

## **Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety**

### **Inquiry into Physical health of police and emergency services workers in NSW**

Inquiry hearing: 10 May 2021  
Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney

### **QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE WITH ANSWERS**

(NSW Police Force)

1. Question, p25

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA:** We heard evidence earlier from the paramedics, who indicated that 20 per cent of their workforce is on workers comp. **Do you have a figure for what percentage of police officers are on workers comp?**

**Assistant Commissioner McCUSKER:** What percentage are currently on workers comp?

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA:** Of the workforce.

**Assistant Commissioner McCUSKER:** No, I would have to take that question on notice at the moment.

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA:** If you can, please. That would be very helpful. Can you tell us what the average length of service of a police officer in New South Wales is as of your last stats?

**Assistant Commissioner McCUSKER:** Yes. The average length of service of a police officer sits around about 14 years' service.

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA:** Do you believe that is increasing or decreasing over time?

**Assistant Commissioner McCUSKER:** It is not increasing at a significant rate at this point in time. On average, that has been consistent for a period of time.

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA:** What period of time are we talking about? In the last decade? Two decades?

**Assistant Commissioner McCUSKER:** I would say the last decade.

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA:** So you are saying it has been consistent over the last decade?

**Assistant Commissioner McCUSKER:** Yes. I can get that further detail on notice. But I do know that average years of service is around about 14 years.

Answer

1. **Percentage of police workforce currently on workers compensation:**

As at 30 April 2021, there were 3,384 reportable open claims which belonged to 2,903 police officers employed (16% of all Police Officers) as of the reporting date with a reportable open claim.

Of these 2,903 police officers, 725 (4% of all Police Officers and 25% of Police Officers with a Reportable Open Workers Compensation Claim) were on Workers Compensation leave on 30 April 2021 and 2,178 (12% of all Police Officers and 75% of Police Officers with a Reportable Open Workers Compensation Claim) were not on Workers Compensation leave on 30 April 2021.

Note:

Please note that this data only includes Post-1988 Police Officers' Reportable Open Workers Compensation Claims, and it excludes all claims belonging to police officers who have separated from the NSW Police Force (who can still have an open claim).

2. **Average length of service for a police officer over the past decade:**

The average years of service for NSWPF Police Officers have increased from around 11 years of service in 2011 to around 13.5 years of service as at 30 April 2021.

It has been increasing due to periods of high retention rates and low separation rates starting from 2012.

In recent years, the average years of service for NSWPF Police Officers have plateaued due to the increased intake of new police officers recruited as part of the organisation's effort to meet the government commitment for an 1,500 additional police officers over the financial years 2019/20 to 2022/23.