

**Submission
No 12**

ASSAULTS ON MEMBERS OF THE NSW POLICE FORCE

Organisation: Independent Education Union of Australia NSW/ACT Branch

Date Received: 26 August 2020

25 August 2020

MN: 120/20

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Ms Wendy Tuckerman MP
Committee Chair
Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
By email: lawsafety@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Committee Chair

The NSW/ACT Branch of the Independent Education Union of Australia (IEUA) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety (Committee) Inquiry into the current incidences of assaults on members of the NSW Police Force (NSWPF).

The IEU is the union which represents the industrial and professional interests of approximately 32,000 staff working in non-government schools, colleges and early childhood centres in NSW and the ACT.

The Union endorses the work of the NSWPF in crime prevention, the protection of lives and property and public safety. We submit that police should not themselves be the victims of crime while undertaking their duties.

The IEU supports an inquiry into the current incidence of assaults on members of the NSWPF with a focus on the protecting the safety, health and wellbeing of police in the performance of their work.

Similarly, family members of police should be protected from threats, harassment and intimidation committed as a form of retaliation, or to influence a particular police investigation.

Within the context of protecting both police and the community, there should be a requirement for all Police to be issued with body-worn video equipment to be worn and activated during interactions in the community.

The union also supports current NSWPF strategies that encourage the engagement of the community, to assist in crime prevention, maintain public safety and increase community confidence in policing in NSW. This community engagement includes the conduct of ongoing discussions, consultation and the sharing of information that shapes the work of the NSWPF. It also includes the NSWPF acting on relevant feedback received from the community groups (including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander groups and other cultural groups) which exist in police commands in urban and rural areas.

In line with this community focus, the union encourages the extension of the NSWPF community engagement focus through school-based programs. School-based programs can be used to recognise the contribution that children and young people make to the community through their engagement and education.

We envisage that school-based programs will generate mutual respect and understanding of the work of the NSWPF and reduce any fear children and young people have of the NSWPF. Such programs may also assist in crime prevention amongst children and young people.

The union would appreciate the opportunity to be included on any list of stakeholders/community groups invited to attend Committee information sessions, public hearings and targeted consultation meetings, prior to any recommendations being made by the Committee to NSW Parliament relating to this inquiry.

The IEU has no objection to this submission being made public and would be pleased to discuss this submission further with the Committee, if contacted by telephoning Russell Schokman, IEU Policy Advisor or myself on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

MARK NORTHAM

Secretary