

**Submission  
No 14**

## **ASSAULTS ON MEMBERS OF THE NSW POLICE FORCE**

**Organisation:** Association of Catholic School Principals in NSW Incorporated

**Date Received:** 28 August 2020



## **ACSP Submission Assaults on members of the NSW Police Force**

The Association of Catholic School Principals (ACSP) is an umbrella organisation for all Catholic School Principals, K-12. Its main purpose is to promote the overall aims of Catholic Education. The Association also promotes the personal, pastoral and professional development of Principals as leaders in Catholic Schools. As the peak professional body for Catholic Principals, the ACSP confers, negotiates and liaises with all levels of government and other industry organisations and is the key representative for its members.

### **TERMS OF Reference**

That the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety inquire into and report on assaults on members of the NSW Police Force, with particular reference to:

- a) the current incidence of assaults against police officers and recent trends in such assaults;
- b) current strategies that the NSW Police Force has in place to engage with the community, including current or past community and school -based programs; and
  - *Campbelltown / Gregory Hills - ongoing support from our local Police Liaison Officer in relation to students involved in risk taking behaviours, etc. The Police Liaison Officer responds quickly and is available to visit the school at short notice.*
  - *Broken Bay Diocese - Ku-ring-gai Local Area Command - the support and advice from the Police Youth Liaison Officer is delivered by a number of means, home visits, school visits for both individuals and year group presentations, and evening parent presentations. When there are more "higher level" incidents the PYLO interviews the child as well as meets with the parents, whilst liaising with the school.*
  - *Broken Bay Diocese - Northern Beaches Command - The Police Liaison Officer is on call with response as required and by invitation. I have found that the follow up calls from our own local police station have been helpful when an incident occurs. Principals receive invitations to briefings regularly.*
  - *Wollongong Diocese - The services of the Police Youth Liaison officer are essential to the development of good relationships between the police and students and their families. The PYLO provide both education sessions as well as support for individual families as well as supporting the school when students are involved in child protection*

*or violence issues. The Local area command invites Principals to briefings regarding the direction of policing in the local area including the responses to domestic violence incidents and violence in our community including responses to first responders. The PYLO education sessions have always included the importance of positive relationships with police that support of community policing.*

- *Bathurst Diocese - The Police Liaison Officers are on call with response as required and by invitation. I have found that the follow up calls from our own local police station have been helpful when an incident occurs.*
- *Parramatta Diocese - The Police Liaison Officers provide education support around cybersafety and social media at schools, facilitate Police Principal forums twice a year at the PACs and respond promptly to critical incidents. Additionally they support and assist in traffic control around schools through organised police visual presents at critical points of a morning and afternoon.*
- *Maitland Newcastle Diocese - The local police and Police Liaison Officers associated with the PCYCs are invaluable to our schools providing advice, talking to groups and individual students who are at risk or participating in illegal or risk taking behaviour. My school regularly engages the PLO for annual talks to various year groups. The local command constables are also very helpful with student incidents and at risk behaviours.*

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c) any other related matters.

- There are times when meetings are held and invitations are sent to government schools and not necessarily to non-government schools. Clearer information about what services are available for schools and updated information about personnel, contacts etc. would be appreciated.
- The recent spike in demand has been met by the local command constables from the local area and further afield in the Hunter area.
- The increasing demand for PYLO to support schools in the local area has not been responded to with any increase in availability or service. This lack of resourcing correlates to a reduction of relationship and then the increase of lack of respect for police.

(Note: The NSW Sentencing Council will be examining sentencing for assault offences against police officers in NSW.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
COMMITTEE ON LAW AND  
SAFETY