



# Police Federation of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

ABN 31 384 184 778

Level 1, 21 Murray Crescent  
GRIFFITH ACT 2603

Tel: (02) 6239 8900  
Fax: (02) 6239 8999

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Committee Secretary  
Senate Education and Employment Committees  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## **FAIR WORK (REGISTERED ORGANISATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2014**

The Police Federation of Australia (PFA) is pleased to make this submission to the above Inquiry. As an organization representing the professional and industrial interests of in excess of 60,000 police officers, the PFA understands the legal and moral obligations that go with holding office in a registered organization under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*.

Whilst we understand that the intent of the Bill is to ensure compliance with the Registered Organisations Act by registered organisations, branches of registered organisations and their officers, the PFA believes that, in general terms, current organisations already comply with the Act and there are sufficient remedies under the law to deal with those who do not. If the federal parliament was of the view that additional powers or resources are needed for the oversight of unions, then those powers and/or resources could easily be given to the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission.

In the PFA's case we made amendments to our registered rules and policies to ensure compliance with the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Act 2012*. In doing so, we took extensive legal advice in regard to our obligations and liaised closely with the Fair Work Commission in developing both our rules and policy changes to ensure compliance. We have not been provided with any evidence that the changes made by that legislation are not effective or working. We therefore believe that the proposed Bill is unnecessary.

Sincerely yours

Mark Burgess  
Chief Executive Officer