



Police Association of South Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

Police Federation of Australia elects new president

Police Association of South Australia president Mark Carroll was elected Police Federation of Australia president in Darwin today.

Mr Carroll, 48, is just the fourth president to head up the PFA since it won the right to federal registration in the High Court of Australia in 1995.

He thanked his fellow state and territory police union presidents for their confidence in him and pledged to give the job his “absolute best efforts”.

“It’s an extraordinary privilege to lead this great, respected organization which, on federal issues, is the voice of almost 60,000 police across Australia,” he said.

“I’ve been able to gain invaluable experience by working with and absorbing the expertise of our former presidents.

“Right now we face particularly testing times in police industrial relations on the national scene. With my fellow board members, I intend to confront the issues head-on.”

The election of Mr Carroll, who replaces outgoing president Vince Kelly, came as part of the PFA’s annual federal council meeting in Darwin.

Mr Kelly stepped down from the role after seven years in office.

Mr Carroll takes on the presidency as the national body opposes such issues as direct entry to Australian police forces at superintendent rank and outsourcing police functions to private industry.

At the same time, the PFA is pushing issues such as the professional registration of police and a system of collaborative purchasing by the nation's police forces.

Mr Carroll will oversee the operations of the PFA's Canberra office but continue to serve as president of the Police Association of SA. He has occupied that role since 2008.

His police career began when he joined the SA Police in 1985. After graduating he served in operational fields in both metropolitan and country posts.

"I have a very strong belief in the need to protect the rights, interests and conditions of police as employees," he said.

"I know very well how hard and how dangerous the job can be; and I've been around long enough to have seen those times when police suffered plenty of industrial injustice. I'm passionate about fighting that any time it arises."

Headquartered close to Parliament House in Canberra, the PFA began operating as a federally registered trade union in 1998. It had won the right to registration after defeating challenges by three state governments and several police commissioners in the High Court.

Now, sworn police officers belong to the PFA by virtue of their state, territory and federal police union memberships.

Mr Carroll had occupied the PFA vice-presidency since 2010.

"I look forward to the challenges of the job and the support I know I'll have from our CEO, Mark Burgess, and his staff," he said.

Police Association of NSW president Scott Weber and Queensland Police Union president Ian Leavers were both elected as PFA vice-presidents. Police Association Victoria president John Laird was elected treasurer.

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