



Police Federation
of Australia
The National Voice of Policing

Level 1, 21 Murray Cres, GRIFFITH ACT 2603

Phone (02) 6239 8900 / Fax (02) 6239 8999
Web www.pfa.org.au / Email pfa@pfa.org.au

Media Release

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BOOST PFA MENTAL-HEALTH CAMPAIGN

The federal government has announced \$1M of funding to assist a Police Federation of Australia (PFA) campaign designed to promote awareness of police officers facing mental health challenges.

The campaign will promote awareness, understanding, prevention and early intervention of mental health issues through print, television, social media, Apps, workshops and the production of a documentary styled video.

PFA president Mark Carroll said the organisation appreciated the government's timely boost to the campaign.

"The funding is going to help us increase public awareness of the mental ill health among police officers," he said.

"Over the course of a police career, the serious incidents a police officer investigates can have a lasting – and damaging - psychological effect.

"This work environment, coupled with a culture that values stoicism and self-reliance, can adversely impact upon the officer's mental health, and contribute to high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

"As the cost of psychological injuries continue to rise, jurisdictions are using resources that could otherwise be used on crime prevention and law enforcement measures.

"Growing this awareness and understanding– and doing away with the stigma that surrounds mental ill health – will require a significant cultural change right across our profession.

"This sort of cultural change will require a comprehensive, sustained and integrated program of work. This funding will help the PFA to meet that challenge."

The campaign has the full support of all the nation's state and territory police unions.

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Media Contact – Fiona Wade 0403 810 865