

E-News



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# Election Special Edition



2013–2016

National Leadership for a Safer Australia

The Police Federation of Australia's pre-election document

*This newsletter and its contents are not for public distribution. E-News has been written specifically for the PFA Executive, Branch Secretaries, Industrial Planning and Women's' Advisory Committees and distribution should be kept within your organisation.*

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The major political parties vying for your vote at the Federal election on Saturday 7 September have written to the Police Federation of Australia spelling out what the offer for police and policing for the next three years. They are responding to the PFA's policy priorities set out in our document, ***National Leadership for a Safer Australia 2013-2016***, published in July 2013.

We have set out the party offerings in a table ***PFA policies with party responses: 2013 Federal Election*** ([click here](#) for 26 page table).

If it's ***the hip pocket*** that interests you most:

- The ALP is sticking with its boost to the **superannuation guarantee** to be paid by the employer which is to rise from **9% to 12%** beginning this year (the increase to 9.25% took effect on July 1 2013). This is of direct benefit to police officers in NSW, WA, NT, Tasmania and in SA. In addition, the ALP has lifted the amount that can be salary sacrificed on a tax concessional basis by **\$10,000 for those over 60 years**, and abolished the 70 year upper age limit for the super guarantee for those who keep on working.
- The ALP has also addressed the issue of **earlier access to super** for police by saying it will allow police to argue their case before a new Council of Superannuation Custodians to be established by Labor.
- On this issue, the Coalition believes there is merit in allowing a lower age for police to access superannuation benefits. However, Australians are now living longer and healthier lives. Any decision would have to give due consideration to the adequacy of superannuation benefits at 55 and to any age discrimination issues. The Coalition is willing to directly discuss these issues with the Police Federation of Australia as a matter of priority, given that preservation ages are due to be lifted in 2015.
- In a late development and following extensive PANSW lobbying, the ALP has announced that it will exempt from the superannuation concessional contributions cap, the compulsory employer contribution amounts paid by the NSW Government to fund the Police Blue Ribbon Insurance Scheme (PBRIS) from 1 July 2014. This addresses a serious inequity affecting many commissioned and non-commissioned officers. It means they can salary sacrifice into super like other Australians.

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- The Coalition has undertaken to seek departmental advice on this NSW police issue. The Coalition did not support Labor's changes to the concessional cap when they were introduced because of likely unintended consequences.
- The Coalition is going to **defer for two years** the 9 to 12% increase in the Superannuation Guarantee paid by the employer in order to save \$1.6 billion in associated government costs.
- The Greens don't support increasing the concessional cap to \$50,000 as proposed by the PFA and they describe allowing access to super savings at age 55 as "problematic". They do support the superannuation guarantee being increased from 9 to 12% and would like to see it rise to 15% as the PFA suggested.

NB: Of course there are many other policies that affect your hip pocket and your vote, but we specifically asked about superannuation policies.

## On the ***National Police Service Medal***:

- Coalition has promised to improve the rollout of the medal so that those eligible receive it within nine months of eligibility. It will also consider extending eligibility to those whose service ended before the formal announcement of the award.
- The ALP, which introduced the medal, has undertaken to speed up the rollout by the Governor-General's office to expedite the 20,000 backlog of the 26,500 eligible police officers. They are seeking the cooperation of the States and Territories to speed this up.
- The Greens support addressing the backlog so that medals can be awarded by June 2014.

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## In relation to the ***Police Profession:***

- The Coalition welcomes recent State initiatives for police registration and understands the benefits, particularly for inter-jurisdictional mobility. Through a new Standing Council on Law, Crime and Community Safety, the Coalition would take a close interest in continued development of a National Police Registration Scheme.
- The ALP is positive about investigating a **national police registration scheme** and has committed funding to a Ministerial Council working group, with PFA membership, to develop a model for the registration scheme and will look at providing seed funding to get such a scheme off the ground.
- The Greens support removing barriers to mobility amongst police and introducing harmonised standards, qualifications and training.

## On ***Workers' Compensation for those deployed overseas:***

- The ALP has agreed to comparable coverage to that provided for ADF personnel, either by way of stand-alone legislation or another mechanism, with the question to be resolved within a year of the election.
- The Coalition would be prepared to discuss this issue with the PFA and other affected stakeholders to consider any proposed legislation.
- The Greens would support stand-alone legislation.

## In relation to our proposal for a world-class ***Code of Practice for Police work health and safety:***

- The Coalition recognizes the special risk police are exposed to and will support the development of a Code of Practice to manage these risks and ensure that Australian officers are as well-equipped as any police force in the world. They also support national guidelines for reporting of serious health and

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safety incidents and non-compliance by police services.

- The ALP supports an effective Code of Practice on managing risks in policing to make policing a healthier and safer profession and would take the lead, at the Ministerial Council, on developing guidelines for annual reporting of serious health and safety incidents and non-compliance by police services.
- The Greens stance is the same as the ALP's.

## On ***Child Care for 24/7 police shift workers:***

- At the urging of the PFA, the ALP is now funding a series of Child Care Flexibility Trials in NSW and Victoria to improve access to affordable child care for police families. The trials which began in July involve the use of non-standard care, including overnight and weekend care, and provide greater flexibility to cater for last minute shift changes. The ALP will consider extending the trials to other locations where police require such child care if they are successful. In addition, the ALP has committed to a new Better Schools: Before and After Program which will particularly help shift workers with child care needs. The 50% child care rebate will continue.
- The Coalition will have a Productivity Commission inquiry into childcare which will recommend ways to ensure it is flexible and affordable.
- The Greens would provide capital to build new centres and expand existing ones and are proposing a quality assured in-home care scheme providing flexible care that allows children to sleep in their own beds. The Greens aim for a direct payments scheme to child care centres so that parents only have to pay the fee gap.

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On the PFA's three year campaign for ***A Mobile Broadband Network for Public Safety Agencies including Police*** the party responses are seriously disappointing:

- The ALP has proposed 10 MHz of the 800 MHz band of spectrum which is half the minimum required. It has also said that in light of submission from the PFA it will examine the unanimous and bipartisan recommendations of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement which recommended 20 MHz of spectrum for the national network.
- The Coalition recognizes the importance of having a robust and effective mobile broadband network for Australia's law enforcement and emergency services. A Coalition Government will conduct a rigorous cost-benefit analysis and continue to investigate this issue.
- The Greens believe this issue is important and should have been resolved prior to 700 MHz spectrum going to commercial auction early in 2013 because the 700 and 800 bands are ideal for public safety agencies.

In relation to ***Alcohol-related Violence and Crime:***

- The ALP has committed to working with all jurisdictions to break the cycle of alcohol-related crime. They are continuing funding for 60 remote area police officers, community night patrols in 80 communities and an additional four remote area police stations. They are also funding specialist support in the areas of child abuse, violence and child abuse intelligence and substance abuse. The ALP has also committed \$38.6 million to support positive change with Alcohol Management Plans in indigenous and other communities.
- The Coalition will redirect confiscated assets to community crime prevention measures like CCTV to help reduce the incidence of alcohol-related violence.
- The Greens at the Federal level are looking to reduce the harms of alcohol through a combination of reforms including pricing, warning labels, and restrictions on advertising during kids' television viewing times and possibly addressing access and availability. They have been looking closely at the 'Newcastle Model' which the PFA has advocated.

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- For indigenous communities The Greens support reducing supply and consumption and community-based alcohol management plans; reducing the number of liquor licenses introducing take away free days and a minimum price on alcohol. They do not support punitive measures such as mandatory detox proposed by the NT Government.

The **other policies** touched on in the party responses were:

- Industrial relations issues
- International Deployment Group funding
- Serious and Organised Crime
- An Australian Crime Prevention Program
- Collaborative purchasing
- Immigration issues
- Capped fringe benefits
- The private health insurance rebate
- Recognition of Australia's police
- Ongoing dialogue with the PFA.

For information on what they had to say on that list of issues, click on the table of party responses referred to on page 2 of this Election Special Edition or see the full text of the parties responses below.

The PFA hopes you find this rundown of the party views interesting and useful.

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## ***Police and former police standing as candidates***

For your information, the following are standing for election:

<b>NSW</b>	Ray King, Liberal in McMahon Russell Matheson, Liberal in Macarthur Justine Elliott, ALP in Richmond Glen Kolomeitz on the ALP Senate ticket for NSW
<b>VIC</b>	Jason Wood, Liberal in LaTrobe
<b>QLD</b>	Peter Dutton, Liberal in Dickson
<b>WA</b>	Luke Simpkins, Liberal in Cowan

## ***Source Documents***

For the full text of parties' responses:

- ***ALP: Australia Labor response to the PFA, National Campaign Headquarters, 3 September 2013 ([click here](#))***
- ***Coalition response to the PFA, 6 September 2013: ([click here](#))***
- ***The Greens response to the PFA 2013 Federal Election Survey, 19 July 2013 ([click here](#))***
- ***AFP officers will also be interested in: ALP Response to the AFPA, September 2013 ([click here](#))***

For the PFA pre-election document presented to each of the major parties in July 2013:

***National Leadership for a Safer Australia 2013-2016 ([click here](#))*** or

go to the PFA website at [www.pfa.org.au](http://www.pfa.org.au)

**Mark Burgess**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
6 September 2013

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