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27 March 2018
Circular No. 15

PRISONER TRANSPORT DISPUTE UPDATE

As outlined in our Circular dated 17 March 2018, the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) has ordered compulsory conciliation between your Association and the NSW Police Force, in relation to the dispute around the transportation of prisoners by police officers. Your Association met with the Chief Commissioner of the IRC and requested an urgent conciliation date be set for the parties to continue to conciliate and negotiate this dispute.

Your Association has met with the Commissioner of Police and the Corporate Spokesperson for Custody and Corrections and have again relayed our position that **“the transportation of prisoners is NOT police work”** and that we seek his support on this. This is the work of other Government agencies who need to be resourced to do their jobs, for which they are trained.

This campaign is not about wages or conditions for our members. Our front line, First Response Police across NSW are being diverted for extensive periods of time doing Prisoner escorts and Mental Health Assessment escorts which is not an efficient use of police time. This directly affects the communities we live and work in and the service we can provide.

Over this Easter Weekend (Friday – Monday), your Association is asking its Branches to record the impact prisoner transportation has on your Command during this period:

- 1). *How many prisoner transports did you undertake, how far/where to, number of hours?*
- 2). *Were any prisoners unable to be admitted into correctives custody, if so, where were they held and for how long?*
- 3). *How many Section 33 orders were ordered over the period and how many hours were spent by police undertaking these tasks?*
- 4). *Is there a breach of your local FRPA from undertaking this task? If so, please complete the attached FRPA breach form.*

Responses to these questions can be emailed to feedback@pansw.org.au by 4 April.

As Police, you are people of influence in your community. This campaign is strong and reasonable, YOU have a major role to play in maintaining the momentum of this campaign. You know better than anyone how this escort work affects your day to day duties. I would ask that as professionals seeking to improve our work practices, you and your local Branch Officials **speak with your Local Magistrates, actively lobby your Local Member, Mayor, Councillors and any other groups in the community who would be concerned every time your resources are diverted away from protecting your city or town.**

There are solutions and we are actively pursuing those changes which requires local Branches engaging with key stakeholders. We will be in contact with local Branch Officials and Commissioned Officers to provide them with **detailed guides on engaging the key stakeholders** in this process. Ongoing updates are available at <http://bit.ly/2Dw4mXv>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Weber', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

SCOTT WEBER
President