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Circular 40
15 October 2018

IRC Prisoner Transport Recommendations issued 12 October

Your Association has continued to prosecute the prisoner transport dispute through the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC), where we have had numerous appearances and conciliation meetings.

On Monday, 8 October and again on Friday, 12 October we appeared before IRC and expressed our frustration on behalf of the members that no tangible changes had occurred, and we therefore sought the Commission's assistance to issue recommendations for changes.

At our insistence, IRC Commissioner Murphy issued a direction to the Commissioner of Corrective Services to be present at all future meetings and IRC proceedings relating to this matter.

Further, the IRC recommended the following:

- The Commissioner of Police and Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW immediately finalise the Parkes trial site and provide a final version to the Police Association of NSW for consultation and finalisation. In relation to the Newcastle trial site, the parties are to progress finalisation of the document focusing on the parameters of a workable trial model, with locations to be agreed upon between the agencies (referred to in paragraph 1).
- The trial sites of Parkes and Newcastle be implemented with an action plan and road map produced to commence no later than 1 December 2018.
- Section 33 Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990 has been amended giving powers to Correctives officers to enable them to undertake orders to and from declared mental health facilities pursuant to Section 33 Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990.
- During the proceedings, the parties have discussed a pilot program including a number of locations where Corrective Services officers will undertake the Section 33 orders. Those locations will be Amber Laurel, Sydney Police Centre, Newcastle, Dubbo and all correctional centres (gaols) that have Audio Visual Link (AVL) capabilities across the State.
- The Commissioner of Police is to use his best endeavours to ensure that the legislative amendments referred to in paragraph 4 above are proclaimed in sufficient time to allow for the Section 33 pilot program at locations in paragraph 5 to be implemented and to commence no later than the 1 December 2018.

NSW Police Force and Corrective Services NSW must report back to the Commission on 24 October 2018 in relation to the status of the IRC's recommendation and implementation.

These recommendations are a significant step forward in the country areas where transporting prisoners continues to be a major burden on front line police. This is aimed at trialling options and models to establish what can work in certain areas.

For police in the Metro regions, the recommendations around section 33 escorts will also reduce the burden significantly. Your Association will report back to members after the 24 October report back.

Members, rest assured we understand the importance of this dispute and the burden it has on police.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T King', is positioned above the typed name.

TONY KING
President