



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Wednesday 4 November 2015

Police Association calls out Senator Leyonhjelm

Police Association of NSW (PANSW) President, Scott Weber today blasted the ill-informed comments by Senator David Leyonhjelm after yesterday's "Nanny State" Inquiry that is in part reviewing policing of the Western Sydney Wanderers games.

Senator Leyonhjelm yesterday repeated sickening comments by a minority of Western Sydney Wanderer's supporters and went on to say "*Now cops earn that*".

Scott Weber described the comments and their repetition as "appalling, and an outrage to police who are doing their job protecting the adults and children who attend these games".

"The Senator by repeating those comments and backing them up is not acting how any elected official should behave. Such attitudes and vitriol are, and always will be, an affront to community decency and values.

"Fringe dwellers should have no platform to promote and extend their extremist views, especially at a time when police officers are themselves under the most serious threat levels in our history."

The PANSW called on Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull to reverse the decision by his predecessor to appoint Senator Leyonhjelm to the important Federal Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement.

"The Senator is completely out of step with community views and needs to be removed immediately. As we heard on the Ray Hadley show, the Senator is even recommending a dedicated area at soccer games where people can let off flares! If you think flares and crowd violence are not dangerous, you just need to look at what's occurred around the world, including the death of a South American child in 2013 by a flare.

"This is an elected official who wants to arm school teachers for safer schools, but wants police to stand by and let a group of grubs intimidate families, chant filthy sexual slurs at opposing fans in front of children and take over the streets every game day.

"He wants police to fall-back and allow thugs to ruin the beloved game for everyone in the State. The safety and security of the Australian public should be more valuable to the Turnbull government than the Senate support of irrelevant outsiders."

Senator Leyonhjelm quoted John Stuart Mill in Parliament a few months ago that "*...the only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others...*"

"The Senator needs to answer the simple question – Why are you asking Police Officers to stand by and watch harm being done to others?"

"Anyone who thinks what has been happening at Western Sydney Wanderers games, and in the hours before them, is not dangerous needs to take a long hard look at themselves. Police are there to protect everyone – even these grubs.

"If Senator David Leyonhjelm is representative of the thinking of a majority of Senators then maybe it's time to re-think if the people of Australia need a Senate at all.

"Regrettably the comments made by the Senator can't be responded to by the NSW Police Commanders at this time. Again, it seems that safety of the community and fans is not paramount in this Senator's mind."

PRESS CONFERENCE – TODAY 4 November

Midday QLD Time/1PM NSW Time

VENUE: Twin Towns Services Club

2 Wharf Street, Tweed Heads NSW

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PRESS RELEASE