



## **POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

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### **Greater Protection Finally Granted for Victims of Domestic Violence**

Changes announced today to the way Apprehended Violence Orders are issued will encourage more victims of domestic violence to speak out and provide victims with the protection they deserve.

The Minister of Police, Michael Gallacher, today announced changes to the legislation which will allow police sergeants to issue provisional AVOs directly, rather than having to go through the court system in the first instance.

Under the current system, police have to request defendants wait at the scene of the incident while they obtain an AVO from the courts – leaving victims open to further abuse and risking defendants fleeing the scene.

President of the Police Association Scott Weber said the removal of the layer of red tape will make a world of difference to those suffering at the hands of domestic violence.

“Finally we’ll have a system that prioritises the rights of victims of domestic violence,” Mr Weber said.

“Police have been saying for many years that the system as it currently stands is leaving victims vulnerable and needs to change.

“Every single day police are called out to reports of domestic violence. The hardest part is walking away, knowing that you’re potentially leaving the victim at risk.

The legislative changes will mean that a provisional AVO can be served immediately after an incident, allowing police to remove defendants from a potentially volatile situation.

“Police are successful in around 94 per cent of all applications for AVOs. This is taking away an unnecessary and prohibitive layer of red tape.

“Victims rights have been tied up in red tape for years. It can’t be underestimated just how big a difference this will make.

“The current system is unnecessarily legalistic, complex, bureaucratic, time consuming and costly. And critically, it doesn’t provide victims the protection they deserve.

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**PRESS RELEASE**