



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PO Box A1097, Sydney South, NSW 1232

PHONE: (02) 9265 6777 FAX: (02) 9265 6789

EAGLENET 57071

Wednesday 29 May 2013

Greens Don't Follow Own Standards

The Police Association of NSW today called on David Shoebridge MLC, to follow his own standards and stop calling into question the presumption of innocence.

Yesterday, during State Parliament Question Time, Greens Member David Shoebridge questioned the confidence that the public have in police. He also demanded to know from the Police Minister, Michael Gallacher, why there had been no charges against police officers relating to the death of Roberto Curti.

The Police Integrity Commission (PIC) referred the matter to the NSW Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) on Monday.

It is disappointing that a person who before entering Parliament, and indeed worked as a lawyer for 13 years, should now be eroding due process. Mr Shoebridge has stepped up to the lectern many times espousing civil liberties for the broader public as a legal requirement that the State must respect for all.

Should these same legal rights that are owed to protect an individual not be extended to police officers?

President of the PANSW, Scott Weber said, "The public have confidence in NSW Police and the work they do. If a matter does come to light that warrants investigation, there are numerous oversight bodies to look into the allegations.

With referral from the PIC to the DPP, it is simply not appropriate to comment on any facets of the case, as it is still going through proper legal process. This is why the PANSW have not commented on the case while it is still being considered. How can Mr Shoebridge and the Greens question the process when all he, and they, have advocated in the past is procedural fairness and natural justice?

Police officers should not be judged until due process has occurred and this just appears like a 'witch hunt', damning police officers before the DPP has reviewed the matter. Again we see police officers being used as political footballs. The correct process is to let the DPP review the matter and await their decision.

All police officers are sick and tired of these to and fro political comments about a matter that has not even been finalised and for which no officer has been charged.

Let's all support impartiality, equity and justice. I urge all politicians to ensure procedural fairness and wait for the due processes to be finalised. Police deserve better than political grandstanding."

Media contact: Alison McLaughlin, 0414 918 470

PRESS RELEASE