



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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PRESS RELEASE

How Many Police Have to Be Assaulted?

The Police Association of NSW is continuing its call for the introduction of mandatory sentencing for offenders found guilty of assaulting police.

Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) Quarterly Update March 2014 figures released today for NSW, have shown assaults on police continue to trend significantly upwards — **up 12.9%**.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said “The consistent and ongoing effort of frontline police has resulted in seven of the major offences showing significant downward trends:

1. robbery without a weapon (down 15.7%);
2. break and enter dwelling (down 13.3%);
3. break and enter non-dwelling (down 10.9%);
4. motor vehicle theft (down 10.3%);
5. steal from motor vehicle (down 3.7%);
6. steal from person (down 12.9%); and
7. malicious damage to property (down 7.7%).

“This is obviously a welcome result for the people of NSW - The decrease in crime is great news for all our communities and further highlights the hard work done every day by police.

“However, it is coming at an escalating cost to police officers who are increasingly being assaulted while undertaking routine daily duties. Male and female officers are being hit, punched in the face, kicked, spat on and bitten. Many of these assaults are both callous and cowardly resulting in officers being hospitalised. They should not have to front up to work each shift wondering if they will have their teeth knocked out or their eyes gouged.

“How many police have to be assaulted and attacked before action is taken? The trend in violence against police is only going one way, and that is up. The very people bringing crime down are the ones being punished – time and time again. It’s time to protect the protectors.

“It’s time to introduce mandatory sentencing to act as a deterrent and reverse this sickening trend. It’s also time to remind the judiciary that escalating violence and attacks on police deserve appropriate penalties with tougher sentencing. Police put themselves between the criminal in our society and the innocent. For that sacrifice, we must show them respect by having legislation that sends our police the message that we appreciate that sacrifice.

“Police strive to balance the needs and well-being of the community we protect, with the need to do the job with some measure of safety. Police officers deserve protection under the law and community support against these assaults.”

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