



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Alarming Rise: Assaults on Police — up 18.1%

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

Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) figures released last month from January 2012 to December 2013 for NSW have shown assaults on police have dramatically risen — **now up 18.1%**.

Recent assaults include:

- In what is believed to be a targeted attack, a NSW police officer will have to undergo months of testing and treatment after he was struck in the hand by a needle stick when he opened the screen door of his police station at Kandos;
- A 25-year-old Constable from St George Local Area Command was taken to St George Hospital having sustained two fractures to his right eye socket after being kicked in the face;
- A Highway Patrol officer on the Far North Coast was conducting speed enforcement duties on the Pacific Highway at Banora Point when he was assaulted by a driver allegedly travelling at 130kmh in a 100kmh zone;
- Four Police Transport Command Officers injured in an assault during a rail operation at Bankstown while conducting a plain clothes covert operation. The officers suffered a range of injuries requiring medical treatment;
- Police officer punched in the head at Griffith with the constable sustaining severe bruising and swelling to his head and face and a large laceration to the rear of his head.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, “Many of these assaults are both callous and cowardly resulting in officers being hospitalised.

“Male and female officers are increasingly being hit, punched in the face, kicked, spat on and bitten. Our members are subjected to increasing rates of violence and abuse, and that’s just while undertaking routine daily duties.

“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.

“All emergency services workers including ambulance/paramedics, firefighters and nurses/medical staff in hospitals, deserve this same protection. They should not have to front up to work on each shift wondering if they will have their teeth knocked out or their eyes gouged. The call for tougher sentences for offenders is about protecting the protectors.”

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PRESS RELEASE