



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PO Box A1097, Sydney South, NSW 1232

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

EAGLENET 57070

Tuesday 9th June 2015

How many last chances to assault police?

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

This follows a man accused of several attacks on police, and who is on 12 good behaviour bonds, being released on bail after being arrested for spitting on an officer twice and kicking another in the stomach. The offender was already facing six charges of assaulting and resisting police when he allegedly assaulted two constables at Merrylands on Sunday night.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "Here we are again, another example of police being assaulted while undertaking their duties and the offender again allowed to roam free on bail. We all have the right to feel legitimately angry about this. This is wrong and the wrong people are suffering.

"This is not about a law abiding person having a bad day, we are talking about a repeat offender who was already facing assault or resist charges against six police officers over an incident.

"What happens to the next police officer to come this man's way? This one last chance may be that officer's last day.

"It's time to introduce mandatory sentencing to act as a deterrent and it's time to remind some members of 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.

"We also want to see emergency service workers protected from the health risks and distress caused by exposure to bodily fluids. We need the power to enable mandatory testing where police officers come into contact with the bodily fluids of offenders (and victims) whilst doing their job.

"Police are being assaulted in large numbers by people under the effects of drugs and alcohol. A police officer often has to undergo months of testing and treatment, especially when needle stick injuries have occurred.

"Too many people are no longer taught respect and quite often a police officer is the first person to call them to account and they don't like it. But these people know they can get away with it. Recent incidents include a male about to be arrested urging his dog to attack an officer, one officer was punched unconscious after 15 blows to the head and one case in April involved a man who assaulted a family member of a police officer.

"How can we expect police to build life-long careers when each year they see more of their colleagues assaulted until many decide they can't take that behaviour and abuse and leave?"

Media contact: Alison McLaughlin, 0414 918 470

PRESS RELEASE