



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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PIC: Ruins reputations and careers - Seven years of investigation, one day of vindication

The Police Association of NSW (PANSW) today welcomed the decision vindicating four police officers accused of giving misleading evidence over the shooting of Adam Salter in 2009. The Police Integrity Commission (PIC) recommended that the charges be laid in its report, which was handed down after the inquiry last year.

Handing down his judgement, His Honour, Judge Greg Woods QC said the allegation of false testimony was not proven for any of the officers and he acquitted them on all charges. Remaining charges of perjury in the Coroners Court were withdrawn today in an embarrassing back down by the PIC.

Police Association Vice President, Pat Gooley, said, "From the outset of this case the DPP itself said the shooting was lawful. The officers were wrongly accused by the PIC of giving misleading evidence in a perverse attempt by PIC to justify their existence. They have been found not guilty and this is obviously a relief for them and their families who have suffered in silence.

"The PANSW has supported these officers from the start and stand with all police officers unjustly pursued by over-zealous and unaccountable organisations that use them to gain publicity in order to justify their existence.

"They were subjected to multiple drawn out investigations over seven years and have been publicly smeared for the rest of their careers in what is a sad indictment on the PIC and another sorry chapter in its failed history of police oversight.

"This was simply grandstanding by the PIC in an over-crowded police oversight space. All it proves is there is no need for an external body to oversight Critical Incidents. This decision, along with the findings in the Curti matter, is proof that the Homicide Squad are best equipped to investigate these matters. Their investigations and the oversight by the Professional Standards Command have once again been shown to arrive at the truth of the matter.

"The PIC has again misused its extensive powers and has a '*win at all costs culture*'. It has a sorry history of pursuing questionable investigations, ruining careers and reputations & wasting scarce resources. This investigation has cost the taxpayers over \$1 million. The PIC have refused to accept multiple decisions by its own Inspector which have criticised its lack of due process and refuses to remove findings from its web site which have been proven to be wrong.

"Neither Police officers or the Community have any reason to have faith in the competence and culture of the PIC.

"The establishment of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) by the state government, replacing the much-maligned PIC, is the fresh start police and the community deserve, but it must be cautious to avoid duplication in the Critical Incident investigation process.

"It's crucial that LECC is a clear break from the current system. There has to be real cultural change and the LECC cannot be a rebadged version of the PIC - it must be staffed with new employees who use their extraordinary powers fairly. The state government has the opportunity to heed the failures of PIC and establish appropriate oversight powers for police accountability and ensure high levels of public confidence."

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PRESS RELEASE