



## POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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### CAMDEN – MORE POLICE NEEDED NOW

The Police Association of NSW (PANSW) has welcomed the visit by the Minister for Police The Hon. Troy Grant MP to Narellan LAC for White Ribbon Day.

Police Association South West Metropolitan Region Executive Member, Nathan Doyle, said, "Domestic violence is a scourge on our society and within our community and remains at shamefully high levels – more than 2,000 domestic violence related incidents occurred in the last 12-months within the Camden LAC."

The Camden Branch of the PANSW are committed to reducing and eliminating domestic violence across the Command. The majority of Branch members perform unpaid overtime to ensure the needs of the community can be met.

Domestic violence incidents are a priority for police, but often take up resources for significant periods of time.

It's just one of the challenges facing local police with Camden LAC currently undergoing significant growth, particularly within the Camden Local Government Area (LGA). The Camden Local Area Command itself covers an area of 2,760 square kilometres with over 52 suburbs with a total population of 113,000 (2014) and has now increased in 2016 to 124,000.

Distance and sheer size of the area impact on policing resources, not to mention a growing population with more than 500 people per month moving into the Camden LGA.

It is critical this Region has appropriate staffing levels to prevent crime, keep the community safe and protect officers who are on the frontline responding to calls for assistance.

Workload continues to increase with an additional 1,600 calls for assistance in the last year alone. There must be a significant increase in staff to meet this demand.

The importance of delivering a better policing model for communities across NSW was highlighted by Troy Grant, with the announcement earlier this year of the reengineering of the New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF).

The Minister for Police emphasised a police allocation model as being a part of this process, saying, "*Reengineering the Force is aimed at delivering police on the ground where they're needed and when they're needed – this means our communities will reap the safety benefits.*"

"Local police are frustrated with the lack of progress to address the staffing shortfalls. We have met with Local Members of Parliament, and NSWPF hierarchy, but haven't secured a commitment for more police other than token gestures that don't solve the issue.

"This inaction can't continue; we need a solid guarantee and are willing to escalate matters on behalf of members should appropriate staffing levels fail to be negotiated. Camden Branch has met to discuss the escalation of the dispute and to consider further industrial action.

"We are calling on the NSWPF hierarchy to show leadership and stand with local police and the Camden community by allocating the police numbers needed."

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**PRESS RELEASE**