



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PO Box A1097, Sydney South, NSW 1232

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

EAGLENET 57070

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No justice for murdered Police Officer & Family

The Police Association of NSW today slammed the decision by the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal which will see the jail term of the man who murdered Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson, VA slashed more than half.

Bryson Anderson was stabbed twice in the chest with a hunting knife by Mitchell Barbieri during a violent siege in 2012 at a rural property in Oakville, near Windsor.

After a NSW Supreme Court trial in 2014, Mitchell Barbieri was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 35 years in prison, with a non-parole period of 26 years. His mother received 10 years in prison with a non-parole period of six years and six months for manslaughter.

Barbieri lodged an appeal against the sentence earlier this year. In the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal this morning, Justice Simpson said the leave to appeal the sentence was granted and the “sentence imposed at first is quashed”.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, “This was a disgusting decision today; a kick in the guts for the family and community. Bryson’s family have a life sentence and today’s decision just adds to the pain.

“What is the reasoning, reduce his sentence because his mother got less than him?

“This woeful decision is nothing short of disgraceful. Another example of just how out of touch some of the judiciary is with the real world.

“It highlights the enormous gulf between public sentiment, as expressed through the actions of Parliament, and the actions of our courts in applying the law.”

In 2011, the NSW State Parliament passed the *Crimes Amendment (Murder of Police Officers) Bill 2011*. This created a mandatory life sentence for persons who murder a Police Officer.

“When does mandatory life sentence not mean mandatory life sentence? Why create sentences that are not applied by the courts?

“Tragically, the circumstances surrounding Bryson’s murder highlight the dangerous and life threatening situations police encounter each time they go out on a shift.

“Bryson Anderson’s brother, Warwick Anderson, the Anderson family and all NSW police officers want the murderer’s sentence to remain unchanged in recognition of the dangers faced by officers in the line of duty.

“It’s past time to protect the protectors. The lifetime of loss and pain continues for the Anderson family, for Mitchell Barbieri, life still holds possibilities.

“We are calling on the NSW Attorney General, the Minister for Justice and Police and the Baird Government to stand with police and the community, do the right thing and overturn this travesty of justice.”

Media contact Alison McLaughlin: 0414 918 470

PRESS RELEASE