



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Friday, 12 May 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Police Disgusted by High Court Decision

The Police Association of NSW is appalled at the High Court's refusal to hear an appeal against the sentence reduction for the killer of Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson VA. The Court ruled the reduction in sentencing for Bryson Anderson's killer will remain in place.

Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson VA 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 pleading guilty in the NSW Supreme Court in 2014, Mitchell Barbieri was 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 and on 12 December 2016, in the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal, Justice Simpson reduced this sentence to a 15-year non-parole sentence.

The NSW DPP lodged an appeal to the High Court of Australia, Director Lloyd Babb SC appeared personally. The Court today refused to allow the appeal and the reduced sentence remains. This is an outrageous decision.

Acting President of the Police Association of NSW, Tony King, said, "What message does this outcome send to the community about the value of a life, especially that of a police officer.

"Today's decision reinforces that this is a legal system not a justice system.

"On behalf of the membership of the Police Association, that is the men and women of the New South Wales Police Force, we are all disgusted by this outcome.

"We all feel for the family of Bryson Anderson and will continue to remember and honour his sacrifice."

The public are encouraged to email thoughts, comments, opinions or messages to the Association at info.centre@pansw.org.au.

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