



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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DUBBO: GENERAL DUTIES POLICE URGENTLY NEEDED

The Dubbo Branch of the Police Association of NSW (PANSW) have agreed to trial a new minimum staffing agreement however, this is not a long-term solution to address critical shortages of general duties officers.

The Branch has submitted a staffing submission outlining the unequivocal need for more police to meet growing community requirements. Representatives have met with NSW Police Commissioner, Michael Fuller and with Police Minister and Dubbo MP, Troy Grant.

Commissioner Fuller outlined a staged plan for an increase of specialist police attached to Dubbo Police Station but failed to provide a timeline or any certainty that Dubbo will see an increase in General Duties staff that are specially tasked to respond to calls for assistance from the community.

According to the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR) data, Dubbo has the dubious honour of ranking among the highest categories for offences such as break and enter and steal from motor vehicles. The figures are up to three times the State average.

Police Association Western Organiser, Rod Sheraton said, "It is critical Dubbo has appropriate staffing levels to prevent crime, keep the community safe and protect officers who are on the frontline responding to calls for assistance. Currently Dubbo needs at least 30 additional police officers.

"We are working closely with our local Dubbo Branch Officials and the Branch are not backing away from repeated calls for additional frontline staff. Our members live and work in the region, have strong local ties and are concerned for their community.

"Inadequate police numbers have an impact beyond Dubbo. Shortages of general duties officers means Dubbo is often required to use staff from Narromine and Gilgandra to meet local staffing needs which leaves those communities understaffed.

"Local police are frustrated with the lack of progress in addressing the staffing shortfalls. We are calling on the NSWPF hierarchy to show leadership and stand with local police and the Dubbo community by allocating the police numbers needed.

"The Dubbo Branch of PANSW will continue to meet on this issue. We are committed to working on long-term solutions for local problems, but are willing to escalate matters on behalf of members should appropriate solutions, due to workload and staffing levels, be unable to be negotiated.

"We owe it to local police and the Dubbo community to secure a commitment and clear timeline to increase police numbers."

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PRESS RELEASE