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Thursday, 7 September 2017

PRESS RELEASE

PANSW SUPPORTS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BOOST TO POLICE MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

The Police Association of NSW (PANSW) is proud to support the Mental Health Public Awareness campaign initiated by the Police Federation of Australia (PFA) to be launched today.

The Federal Government is supporting the campaign with \$1million in funding over two years.

Police Federation President, Mark Carroll said, "The PFA appreciates the Federal Government's contribution to our initiative to increase public awareness of the mental health challenges facing police officers."

The campaign will promote awareness, understanding, prevention and early intervention of mental health issues through print, television, social media, Apps, workshops and the production of a documentary styled video.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is the most frequently reported occupational disorder in policing, with data suggesting that 1 in 6 first responders suffer some form of diagnosed mental health issue.

The campaign, designed and implemented by the PFA, will focus on thousands of police officers and their families across the country, targeting the social and emotional wellbeing (mental health) of members.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "The nature of our work entails police officers often facing life and death challenges and witnessing some very distressing situations. This campaign is about looking after our members and getting them back to work, and is supported by all police unions and associations nationwide.

"With effective treatments available, the best outcome is for an officer to be returned to meaningful work as soon as practicable, thus ensuring optimum policing numbers across the jurisdictions to prevent crime and alleviating stress on frontline police.

"Investing in mental health makes good business and operational sense, especially as the cost of psychological injuries continues to rise.

"The workplace is an important environment to discuss mental health and by educating our workforce on the importance of early detection and destigmatising mental illness, there is hope for less impact on the officer, their family and the workplace.

"We look forward to working with the PFA and the NSWPF hierarchy to confront this challenge by driving cultural change."

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