



**PANSW**  
Police Association of NSW

**Media  
Release**

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## **Police Association points to imbalance in Coroner's findings**

The findings that Deputy State Coroner Harriet Grahame has delivered on musical festival deaths that relate to the police presence at festivals don't sufficiently emphasise the harm reduction provided, says the Police Association of New South Wales (PANSW).

"The compelling reason for that police presence is to responsibly conduct reasonable policing duties – including crowd safety," says Tony King, PANSW President.

"It is beyond tragic for any family to lose a loved one. The role our members play is to protect the young and the vulnerable so that they can go home safe. That's a clear community expectation.

"We have been disappointed that there has been no focus on the lives being saved and at the lack of weight given to evidence that people have been intercepted in the course of dealing and supplying drugs at Festivals.

"We stand with the Commissioner of Police in restating that any inference that the presence of police has contributed to the deaths of festival goers is offensive and wrong. Our members, many of whom are also mums and dads, are impacted on heavily when instances of drug harm or worse occur at these events.

"We have stated previously that we would be in favour of a Drug Summit to allow expert debate on the core issues of harm reduction and are glad to see that in the recommendations".

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