



**PANSW**  
Police Association of NSW

**Media  
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## **ONE COUGHER OR SPITTER IS ONE TOO MANY**

The Police Association of New South Wales (PANSW) has congratulated the Government for moving swiftly to put a new COVID-19 regulation in place for protecting all workers on the frontline of the current crisis from continued instances of “vile and disgusting” coughing and spitting.

“Even one instance of being coughed at or spat on by a person claiming to be infected is one too many,” says Tony King, PANSW President.

“We commend Health Minister Brad Hazzard and Police Minister David Elliott for moving to introduce an on-the-spot \$5,000 fine to stamp out this threatening and dangerous behaviour. As Minister Hazzard said it couldn’t be allowed to continue or worsen.

“We’ve had a gutful of it, our fellow emergency service and healthcare workers have had a gutful too, and so has the wider public.

“As Minister Hazzard pointed out today where this offensive and extremely dangerous behaviour crosses over into other offences, such as assault, people will face further charges and the full force of the law will be applied.

“In recent weeks we have seen police repeatedly targeted statewide by people coughing and spitting on them. As stated today, and it can’t be said loudly or often enough, COVID-19 is no joke.

“The police officers of New South Wales are putting themselves on the frontline every day. Being exposed to any further risks on top of that is beyond unacceptable”.

**Media contact:**

Stephen Olsen – PANSW Communications Coordinator | Phone: 0488 009 805  
PANSW Facebook @pansw.org.au | Twitter @PoliceAssocNSW