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Police Association of NSW

**Media
Release**

Wednesday 10 February

Time behind bars fits the offence of severe assault on police officer

“Yesterday’s sentencing for a vicious assault committed on a police officer at Wyong Police Station almost two years ago, is closer than is often seen to matching both community expectations and the expectations of our members,” says Tony King, President of the Police Association of New South Wales.

“The sentence of a non-parole period of four years in jail for causing grievous bodily harm to a police officer, amongst other charges, is a signal that such assaults are being taken seriously by the courts. Ideally it would also signal a willingness to reset current sentencing guidelines.

“In March 2019 Sergeant Rachael Robins was simply taking a cup of tea to an offender in a holding cell when he turned on her, grabbed her by the hair, kned her in the head and began punching her in the face. Her physical injuries alone included a broken nose and facial cuts.

Tony King: “As highlighted in last year’s Parliamentary Inquiry into Assaults on members of the NSW Police Force, the level of senseless violence directed at officers like Sergeant Robins has a severe impact on their individual health and wellbeing, for long periods, and this also impacts on their families.

“The assault data presented to the Inquiry confirmed an increase in assaults that are causing actual bodily harm, causing a variety of injuries.

“Behind every assault statistic is a mother, father, daughter, son, brother or sister, friend and loved one who comes home to their family injured and in need of support to recover and return to work.

“All we have ever asked for is sentencing that is consistent with the severity of the offence. The ball on that is now with the NSW Sentencing Council who have been reviewing the penalties for attacks on Police and emergency workers.

“As stated by the Attorney General Mark Speakman in July 2020 the only word to describe the deliberate violence committed against our members is disgraceful. The time for sentencing options that will deter and reduce those attacks is long overdue”.

References:

- <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2608#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>
- <http://www.sentencingcouncil.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/assault-police-submissions.aspx>

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