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**ACT
Policing**

Thursday, 4 December 2025

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit, GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Email: paterson@act.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Our reference: EC25-004043

I write in response to your Ministerial Direction issued on 26 September 2025 under clause 7 of the Policing Arrangement between the Commonwealth and ACT Government. This letter outlines my Statement of Intent in response to your Ministerial Direction and in accordance with clauses 3 and 6 of the 2022-26 Purchase Agreement. I confirm this Statement of Intent supersedes the previous iteration issued on 28 November 2022, which was provided in response to the 2022 Ministerial Direction.

ACT Policing is committed to our mission of policing for a safer community, including supporting the Australian Federal Police's (AFP's) new mission to defend and protect Australia and Australia's future from domestic and global security threats. ACT Policing plays a critical role in supporting the AFP's mission by defending Australia's domestic security, protecting vulnerable communities, and prioritising social cohesion.

Since commencing my responsibilities as Chief Police Officer for the ACT, I have remained clear that my key priorities are ensuring that ACT Policing continue to keep Canberrans safe, ensuring the health and wellbeing of our workforce, ensuring that we have the right facilities for our people to work in, and that we are continually looking at ways that we can innovate and improve to be the best policing operation in the country. These priorities continue to be my areas of focus, and I look forward to working with you to ensure these priorities align with those outlined in your Ministerial Direction.

On behalf of ACT Policing, I wish to re-affirm our commitment to delivering all our functions under the Policing Arrangement 2017, 2022-26 Purchase Agreement and your Ministerial Direction. We remain committed to delivering a professional, effective and community focused policing service to the people of the ACT. This commitment is underpinned by a diverse, healthy and inclusive workforce that reflects the values of the AFP and of the ACT Government.

Chief Police Officer for the ACT

/ GPO Box 401 Canberra ACT 2601

/ Telephone: 02 5127 4015

/ Email: CPOACT@afp.gov.au

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We will continue to apply intelligence led, evidence based, and innovative strategies to reduce crime, improve safety and engage meaningfully with our community. I take this opportunity to thank the ACT Government for its continued financial commitment to ACT Policing, including the ACT Government's election commitment to an additional 150 ACT Policing staff.

As negotiations commence for the next iteration of the Purchase Agreement, ACT Policing will work closely with the ACT Government to shape the policing model that reflects the evolving needs of the community. Through annual budget processes, we will identify and propose opportune and evidence-based areas of investment to ensure we can continue to deliver on priorities and maintain a sustainable and capable policing service for the ACT.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY POLICING

- ACT Policing continues to focus on implementing a prevention and community -focused model of policing that better supports the ACT Government and community priorities.
- The ACT Government's financial commitment has enabled the commencement of additional recruit courses, and ACT Policing remains on track to deliver on our recruitment pipeline.
- To foster community engagement and encourage members of the public to report crime, ACT Policing continues to explore innovative solutions and enhanced digital engagement. For example, ACT Policing's online reporting portal has been expanded to offer more choice and convenience for the Canberra community to report crime and other incidents to police.

PROFESSIONALISM AND PRACTICES OF POSITIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- ACT Policing emphasises professionalism and integrity as core values, and we strive to deliver an innovative and effective policing service to the ACT community.
- Police are provided with significant responsibility and powers to protect and ensure the safety of the community, and I acknowledge the need for transparency and accountability for ACT Policing.
- ACT Policing operates within a robust AFP-wide integrity framework, and members adhere to a values-based set of professional standards in the course of their duties.
- There are several mechanisms to monitor the conduct of ACT Policing members, and ACT Policing is committed to transparency and continuous improvement to ensure that our policies, training and procedures are continually enhanced to support members and meet community expectations.

CRIME PREVENTION

- To support ACT Policing's mission of policing for a safer community, ACT Policing has established a strategic direction that is focused upon several crime prevention areas, including counter terrorism and violent extremism, domestic and family violence, First Nations overrepresentation, organised crime, road safety, sexual offences and youth justice.
- To support these strategies, it is important that ACT Policing maintains a highly visible, responsive and proactive presence in the

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community, and focuses on collaboration with sector and community partners across the ACT.

- ACT Policing will continue to work with the ACT Government to develop and implement strategies for crime prevention, including reducing recidivism by supporting diversionary alternatives to the criminal justice system.

IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

- ACT Policing will continue to support the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 and work with the ACT Government to develop the ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy.
- In recognition of the intersection between domestic and family violence and sexual violence, ACT Policing will be aligning the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Portfolio to enable a more trauma-informed and victim-centred approach to deliver a capability uplift across ACT Policing.
- Victim safety and offender accountability continues to drive our commitment to investigating domestic and family violence incidents in the ACT.
- In addition, ACT Policing's expansion and restructure to develop the Domestic and Family Violence Investigation Unit (DFVIU) will support initiatives to implement effective domestic and family violence prevention and response.
- ACT Policing recognises the importance of community-led solutions to support and prevent further harm to victim-survivors of family violence.
- To achieve this, the DFVIU will continue to work closely with Children, Youth and Families, the Domestic Violence Crisis Service and Victims Support ACT in developing strategies based on a collaborative input and working arrangements.

IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSES

- ACT Policing continues to prioritise the implementation of effective sexual assault prevention and responses, including working with the ACT Government to implement recommendations in the ACT Government's response to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee's recommendations in the *Listen, Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal* report and the *ACT Sexual Assault (Police) Review Report*.
- The establishment of the sexual assault advocate pilot program will co-locate sexual assault advocates within ACT Policing to provide support and advocacy for victim survivors, including providing critical information about rights, referrals and access to specialist services.
- Over recent years, there has been significant progress with our dedicated sexual assault training and oversight processes, and ACT Policing is committed to continuous improvement to ensure our operational responses are trauma informed, and person centred.

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ROAD SAFETY AND REDUCE ROAD TRAUMA

- To address road safety and reduce road trauma, ACT Policing is committed to exploring additional mechanisms, including potential legislative reform.
- ACT Policing continues to work closely with the ACT Government to develop and implement strategies to improve road safety and reduce anti-social and dangerous driving behaviours.
- This includes education, innovation and targeted enforcement by working with partner agencies on the ACT Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan and supporting joint education campaigns in line with the ACT Road Safety Calendar.

REDUCING THE OVERREPRESENTATION OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- ACT Policing will continue to work with the ACT Government to support targets to reduce recidivism and overrepresentation of First Nations people in the criminal justice system, including on responding and implementing relevant recommendations that arise from the Independent Review into the Overrepresentation of First Nations People in the ACT Criminal Justice System.
- ACT Policing operates under the Policing Strategy for Engagement with First Nations People and Communities, which is an overarching strategic plan that guides ACT Policing's engagements with the First Nations people and community.
- The Strategy reflects a commitment to improving ACT Policing's engagement with the First Nations community and is complemented by ACT Policing's First Nations Cultural Literacy Training program.
- ACT Policing will maintain ongoing engagement and consultation with local First Nations communities, including through ACT Policing First Nations Working Group which reports to the Chief Police Officer's First Nations Advisory Board.

DIVERTING YOUTH FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- ACT Policing will maintain ongoing engagement with the ACT Government and relevant support services to promote therapeutic responses for young people in crisis and limit engagement with the criminal justice system where possible.
- ACT Policing will continue to respond to calls for assistance regardless of the apparent age of the offender. Once officers ensure the safety of everyone present at an incident, they will establish what has taken place and whether an offence has occurred, and then officers will consider the appropriate pathway for any young people or others involved.

DRUG DECRIMINALISATION AND HARM MINIMISATION

- ACT Policing continues to support the ACT Government's harm minimisation and diversionary approach to personal illicit drug use in the ACT.
- ACT Policing maintains its commitment to target drug trafficking and criminality driven by drug use.

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COMMUNITY SAFETY FOCUSED FIREARMS APPROACH

- ACT Policing is committed to supporting the development of the National Firearms Register (NFR) and working with the ACT Government to ensure the firearms regulatory regime is fit for purpose. This may require legislative amendments to ensure that police have the appropriate tools for addressing emerging technology and risks to the community and ensuring that police have adequate mechanisms to ensure compliance.
- Alongside the development of the NFR, ACT Policing will continue to ensure compliance with ACT firearms legislation and undertake broader collaborative work to uplift the ACT Firearms Registry.

COUNTERING TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

- ACT Policing will continue to engage and support the ACT Government's efforts to counter violent extremism in line with national strategies, such as the *Australia's Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy* and the *National Counter-Terrorism Plan*.
- ACT Policing will continue to develop ACT Policing's fixated threat capability and identify early opportunities for diversion in response to the growing threats of online and youth radicalisation.
- ACT Policing will explore opportunities to enhance capabilities to identify and assess concerning behaviours which may escalate into politically motivated violence or hate crimes.
- ACT Policing will continue to share advice and intelligence where appropriate with ACT Government and community partners to strengthen awareness, preparedness and resilience to evolving threats.

In addition to the priorities outlined in the Ministerial Direction, ACT Policing will continue critical work on:

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY FROM BEING EXPLOITED BY ORGANISED CRIME

- ACT Policing will continue work to closely with interstate policing partners, law enforcement, intelligence agencies and other stakeholders to prevent and disrupt serious and organised crime.
- To enhance our response to organised crime, ACT Policing is committed to working with the ACT Government to review legislative frameworks and operational structures to ensure that ACT Policing can maximise the impact that we have on organised crime and illicit profit-making enterprises and protect the community.

ENSURING THAT THE CORRECT AGENCY IS RESPONDING TO HEALTH-RELATED INCIDENTS

- To support persons experiencing health-related incidents, ACT Policing is committed to working with partner agencies to review current responses to health-related calls and implementing a revised model of care in the ACT.
- The proposed model, termed Correct Agency Right Engagement (CARE), is supported by research and other policing jurisdictions'

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experiences that demonstrates, in most cases, a person suffering a health crisis will generally have their needs best met by a healthcare service with the appropriate training, equipment and experience.

- ACT Policing will continue to work with partner agencies on a CARE model that will focus on the interests of the person, while ensuring that police continue to be responsible for incidents where there is a risk to public safety or first responders and to prevent the commission of crime.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT POLICING MASTER ACCOMMODATION PLAN

- ACT Policing will continue to collaborate with the ACT Government to ensure the provision of appropriate facilities and associated infrastructure to enable the delivery of policing services.
- The ACT Government's commitment to progress critical infrastructure planning will ensure that ACT Policing can meet the needs of modern policing and the growing needs of the ACT community.

To deliver these objectives, ACT Policing will continue to work closely with the ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate and other Directorates as appropriate, to develop and implement ACT Government policy and legislation relating to community safety.

In accordance with clause 11.5 of the 2022-26 Purchase Agreement, I will continue to engage with you on the appropriate level of staffing to ensure that ACT Policing is able to deliver the outcomes of the Agreement, respond to current or emerging risks in the operating environment and to maintain staff wellbeing.

As outlined in your Ministerial Direction, ACT Policing continues to operate in a dynamic and complex environment. With individuals and criminals more willing to test the resolve of democracy and our social cohesion, it is integral that ACT Policing maintains the trust of the community. Therefore, it is critical that we work closely with the ACT Government to identify and address resourcing pressures to ensure we can maintain a professional, effective and efficient policing service to keep the community safe and ensure we maintain the health and wellbeing of our workforce.

I will continue to work in collaboration with the ACT Government, including through budget processes, development of policies, and progression of legislative amendments which support the commitments that I have outlined in this letter. Together, we can work to ensure the ACT remains one of the safest cities to live in.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Commissioner Scott Lee APM
Chief Police Officer for the ACT

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/ GPO Box 401 Canberra ACT 2601
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