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## AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND POLICE COMMISSIONERS' FORUM

12-14 MARCH 2024 MELBOURNE, VIC

### COMMUNIQUE

The Australia and New Zealand Police Commissioners' Forum (ANZPCF) is an important bi-yearly meeting between Police Commissioners from all Australian States and Territories and includes the New Zealand Police Commissioner. The most recent meeting was held in Melbourne in March 2024.

The aim of ANZPCF is for Commissioners to share their unique knowledge and understanding of the most significant issues impacting on law enforcement, their communities and their workforces, to enhance policing practice and community safety around Australia and in New Zealand.

The March meeting focused on several key strategic and operational matters, with all jurisdictions sharing perspectives on current and future challenges and opportunities.

Of significance was the discussion regarding the **police role** in responding to and preventing **family violence**, including the recent introduction of **coercive control legislation** in some jurisdictions.

Commissioners also focused on the current trends around the increase in **retail theft** in all jurisdictions and harms caused to retail workers. Discussions touched on opportunities to enhance prevention and detection measures. The relationship between **retail theft and youth crime** was also discussed along with other issues surrounding youth offending and the criminal justice system.

Considerable attention was given to the **wellbeing and mental health** of police employees, with jurisdictions sharing insights into the factors impacting on wellbeing and the initiatives to support our people.

Extensive discussions occurred regarding the **demand for police services**. The growth in calls for police along with the drivers of demand, the time spent on task and the changing expectations of the role of police were key points of discussion.

It was noted that shared **dedicated project work** is already underway for adaptive and innovative solutions both to demand for services and the health and wellbeing of the police workforce.

Commissioners noted the **cybercrime** increases reported on the Commonwealth platform - *ReportCyber* - and agreed to support where possible nationally consistent victim-centric approaches.

Commissioners addressed two issues on the national **Police Ministers' Council** agenda, noting the shared jurisdictional focus on delivering positive outcomes under the **Closing the Gap National Agreement**, particularly as it relates to Australian police organisations; and targeting the involvement of organised crime in **illicit tobacco and vaping**.

ANZPCF is scheduled to meet again in October 2024.



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