



Police Federation of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

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Dr Kathleen Dermody
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Provisions of the Defence Legislation Amendment (Security of Defence Premises) Bill 2010

It is with pleasure that I make this submission on behalf of the Police Federation of Australia (PFA) which represents the professional and industrial interests of Australia's 54,000 police officers.

The PFA supports the general thrust of the Bill. We do however continue to have concerns about police-style powers being granted to person other than fully trained and sworn police officers.

In a recent submission to all political parties in the lead up to the 2010 Federal Election we argued –

"The PFA is adamant that, to avoid the introduction of a 'second tier of policing', the powers, uniforms and vehicles of police officers should be reserved for sworn police and any non-sworn support staff should be easily distinguishable from police by members of the community".

In response the Government said –

"Federal Labor agrees that policing powers, uniforms and vehicles should be reserved for sworn police. The nature of police work is unique and carries unique responsibilities. It is not appropriate to confer police or police like powers on non-sworn personnel that don't have the same level of responsibility or training".

Whilst we understand the rationale for providing various search powers for contracted defence security guards, we are mindful of not conceding such powers being granted away from Defence premises.

Therefore we suggest that the Committee seek to assure itself:

- as to the scope of the work of the contracted defence security guards; and
- that the defence security guards' functions will be strictly confined to defence bases and premises and the immediate surrounds of those establishments.

We would be pleased to answer any questions the Committee might have on this aspect of the Bill.

Yours sincerely

Mark Burgess
Chief Executive Officer