



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

Acting Minister for Police and Emergency Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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RECORD POLICE NUMBERS AS 157 POLICE OFFICERS GRADUATE FROM THE ACADEMY

Acting Minister for Police and Emergency Services Greg Smith SC, today joined Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione in welcoming 157 new officers from the Goulburn Police Academy.

The 157 students from Class 320 will be allocated to Local Area Commands across New South Wales from Monday.

Mr Smith said today is an important day for the men and women who have worked very hard over the past few months.

“This Government has already added an additional 420 officers to the NSW Police Force.”

“Police numbers are now at a record high, with the authorised strength sitting at 16,226.”

“The NSW Government is commitment to boosting the authorised strength of the NSW Police Force by 859 police officers, to reach 16,665 in August 2015.”

“Today’s attesting class is another step towards delivering on that target,” Mr Smith said.

“In today’s class more than half of the graduates will be going to commands across the North and South West.”

“Dedicating their working lives to the safety and protection of their community is unique and the career they are embarking on today will be as challenging as it will be rewarding,” Mr Smith said.

These students have come from all walks of life including 16 who were born overseas, three who are aged 41 years or older, and five students who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background.

“This Government continues to increase police numbers and provide police with the powers they need to keep the community safe,” Mr Smith said.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has:

- recruited and trained an additional 420 Police Officers;
- legislated to give Police the greater power to ban individuals from owning firearms and increased search powers for firearms including targeting criminal hang outs;
- strengthened consorting offences to stop criminals associating;
- tightened the supply of ammunition to help prevent it falling into the hands of criminals;
- passed tough anti-outlaw motorcycle gang laws which declares them criminal organisations;
- reformed the Crime Commission to bolster their focus on organised crime;
- introduced a licensing scheme with stringent probity checks for owners and operators of tattoo parlours so they can no longer be fronts for criminal activity;
- banned bikies wearing their colours in Kings Cross venues;
- passed new laws to stop criminals from putting forward ambush defences;
- reformed the security industry to stop organised crime involvement in the industry;
- rolled out Automatic Number Plate Recognition Technology (ANPR) to quickly identify criminals on our roads;
- introduced mandatory life sentences for the murder of a Police Officer; and
- rolled out 25 new Mobile Police Command Vehicles to have 'Police Stations on wheels' moving around the community.

“These officers will now join one of the largest and most respected Police Forces in the world and the Government will continue to invest in it.”

“I congratulate the men and women graduating today, who have chosen a selfless profession and I wish them luck as they begin their future careers on Monday,” Mr Smith said.

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