



### **New Statistics Confirm Effectiveness of Tasers in the Field**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Minister for Police Michael Daley today said new statistics on Taser use in the NSW Police Force confirmed they were an invaluable tool in hostile situations.

“The NSW Government has made the rollout of Taser stun guns a priority for our frontline police because we believe our officers should have the best equipment available to do what is ultimately a very tough job,” he said.

“Even in the early stages of this rollout, the evidence is clear that this new form of defence is a powerful deterrent – often without being fired.

“Tasers have been used a total of 440 times since they were introduced for general duties police. In 256 of these instances – or 54 per cent – they weren’t fired.

“Just drawing the Taser was enough to diffuse the situation.

“Of course, the voice is one of the most effective weapons we have which is why the Police continue to use this as the first line of defence,” Mr Daley said.

Mr Daley said the research confirmed that Tasers were being used for hostile situations where a gun may otherwise be needed with the majority of situations involving alcohol (37 per cent), mental illness (22 per cent) or domestic violence (14 per cent).

“The statistics also provide us with very strong evidence that the extensive training each officer is required to go through before taking a Taser into the field has resulted in what is an excellent record of use,” Mr Daley said.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said the rollout of the new Tasers was already proving to be a valuable investment.

“Immobilising people who are impaired by alcohol, drugs or mental issues is always going to be safer with a Taser than a hand gun when all other attempts to disarm a situation have failed.

“It also lessens the likelihood of injury to police, victims and bystanders.

“It’s also important to remember that every time a Taser is used, the footage from the in-built camera is reviewed by the Deputy Commissioner to make sure our officers are using these defence weapons to international best practice,” Mr Scipione said.

Mr Daley said the NSW Government’s \$10 million rollout of X26 Tasers to all Police First Response Units was well underway.

“I’m pleased to report that we’re on track to have all 1,962 Tasers deployed in the field by the end of 2010,” Mr Daley said.

## **Taser use within the NSW Police Force – October 2008 to October 2009**

### **Breakdown of Factors related to Taser deployment**

Alcohol related	37%
Mental Health related	22%
Domestic violence related	14%
Testing or other	27%

### **How Tasers were deployed:**

Draw and cover	54%
Barbs deployed	20%
Drive Stun	12%
Testing related	10%
Multiple deployment	4%

### **Where Tasers have been deployed by premises type**

Private residence	51%
Outdoor/public place	26%
Police station/hospital/ Justice centre	18%
Licensed premises	3%
Commercial business	2%