



Our Ref: 63-09305  
Your Ref: Petition No. 089

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Swinbourn

Thank you for your letter in relation to Petition No 89 - WA Police Officers.

The McGowan Government is delivering its election commitments to amend section 8 of the *Police Act* and associated provisions so police officers who are injured or ill can retire on medical grounds with dignity, and to provide a Police Redress Scheme.

Drafting to establish a new stand-alone process to medically retire police officers, separate from the existing loss of confidence/removal process, is advanced and the Bill will be introduced into Parliament as soon as possible this year. As you may be aware, following years of inaction on this important issue by the former Liberal-National Government, Premier McGowan committed to these reforms in 2015 and drafting commenced on amendments to the *Police Act* before the second anniversary of the election of our Government.

The State Government's \$16 million Police Redress Scheme is currently open for applications by former officers who have been medically retired due to a work-related illness or injury. The Scheme is being widely promoted, including through the Medically Retired Officers Association.

Work also continues to be progressed to implement our commitment to provide appropriate compensation arrangements for police officers who suffer a work-related illness or injury. It is very unfortunate that this important issue was not resolved by the former Government. Members of the Committee may be interested to know that the WA Police Union is not seeking to have serving police officers covered by the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act*. Importantly, if a police officer is injured or becomes ill 'on duty', they are entitled to paid leave, 168 days per year which can and is extended, and medical benefits. An officers who retires due to a work-related injury or illness also continues to have their medical benefits paid in accordance with the *Police (Medical & Other Expenses for Former Officers) Act*.

I thank you for your interest in the health and welfare of West Australia's police officers and trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Roberts".

**HON MICHELLE ROBERTS BA DipEd MLA  
MINISTER FOR POLICE; ROAD SAFETY**

12 FEB 2019