

clothes and uniform divisions; ability and not gender being the governing criteria. The Australian Capital Territory Police, recognising the contributions to be made by women in law enforcement, for some five years now has assigned women to general patrol duties and given female officers the opportunity to train as detectives.

Given the opportunity to demonstrate the valuable contributions they can bring to their respective forces, the rest could depend on the women themselves. The indications are that women officers are just as capable of handling their duties as their male counterparts. As they continue to demonstrate that they can do the job, the previous negative attitudes and reactions will tend to disappear as they are accepted as full time police officers in their own right.



## ASSOCIATIONS' PAGE

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Attorney-General  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600  
8 October, 1979

Dear Mr Page,

I refer to your letter of 18 September 1979 concerning the resolution passed at the recent Bi-ennial Conference of the Police Federation of Australia relating to the Criminal Investigation Bill.

As you will be aware, when the Criminal Investigation Bill 1977 was left to lie on the table of the House, a great deal of comment was received from both interested individuals and organisations. These comments have now been closely examined. However, the Government has not yet decided whether a revised Bill will be proceeded with.

Should the Government decide to proceed with the introduction of a new Bill ample opportunity will

be afforded for comment by the public including the Police Forces.

Yours sincerely,  
(PETER DURACK)

Mr R. W. Page,  
Secretary,  
Police Federation of Australia & New Zealand,  
P.O. Box Q.283,  
Queen Victoria Building,  
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

In closing, may I take the opportunity of extending, on the behalf of my members, best wishes and expressions of our continued support to Sir Colin Woods in this task as Commissioner of the AFP, and also extend to our counterparts from the former Commonwealth Police our firm undertaking to do all in our power to create a common bond of understanding.

Alan K. Bilbie  
Secretary,  
Federal Police Association.

### Languages:

## NOT EVERYONE SPEAKS STRINE

Have you ever wished that you could speak another language? Perhaps, as a police officer, you have encountered a person whose English is difficult to understand.

Australia is a multi-racial society and newly-arrived settlers need some time before they have a substantial grasp of English or, as it is becoming known, Australian-English or "strine".

But perhaps you are an AFP

member who can speak one or more foreign languages. Languages spoken by members include Greek, Macedonian, Yugoslav, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Kiswahili, Japanese, Indonesian, Russian, Vietnamese, Dutch, Polish and Esperanto.

(At the AFP training college in Barton, A.C.T., a handful of instructors are even able to master a few key phrases of Pidgin and Motu —

the result of friendships with officer-trainees from Papua-New Guinea.)

If you are an AFP Member who is able to write another language, the Editor would be grateful if you got in touch. Perhaps you could help *Platypus* by contributing a short article in another language.

By publishing AFP stories in other languages, we hope to get *Platypus* articles reprinted in some of Australia's many foreign language newspapers.