



The Associations' Page



LOG OF CLAIMS

Dear Members,

Over the past couple of months a number of things have happened which I feel are of interest to members. One of these has been the lodging of our Log of Claims before the Federal Police Arbitral Tribunal for members of the Australian Federal Police Force.

Nobody realizes more than members of the Federal Executive that since the formation of the Australian Federal Police Force, the situation regarding terms and conditions of employment has, to say the least, been most frustrating. We have a situation where members of the same rank in the Australian Federal Police Force are doing identical work and receiving different rates of pay. There would be no other industry in Australia that this situation would be allowed to continue. In fact, our view has always been that terms and conditions of employment for members of the Australian Federal Police Force should have been sorted out prior to the Australian Federal Police formation.

On the 10th April, 1980, the initial meeting took place before the Police Arbitral Tribunal. Mr. Justice Coldham ordered both parties into conference and asked that we appear again on Monday 26th May, to inform him of the progress of negotiations between our organisation and the appropriate Government Departments. Since the 10th April, we have met with Officers from the Government Departments and discussed various aspects of our claim. Needless to say, there were some areas where agreement will be reached rather quickly. There are areas where agreements will take slightly longer and finally there are areas which probably the Minister may not agree to, they could be wages, penalty payments. The latter may have to be argued before the tribunal before we have a situation of standard rates of pay.

The Federal Executive expects to be speaking to certain members in the very near foreseeable future so as to gather certain work value information that can be presented to the Police Arbitral Tribunal to support our claim.

P. N. Curtin
Federal Secretary
CPOA

A POLICEMAN'S LOT

Dear Members,

A Policeman's lot is not a happy one and the same applies to Policewomen these days. This is a familiar and often true reflection of our profession.

The future appears to hold not the slightest chance of reversing our sad lot. I hold the view, supported I might add by many of my contemporaries, that the next decade will prove to be the most devastating as far as law enforcement agencies in Australia are concerned. The rapid changes to our legislation which allegedly reflects our society's views adequately demonstrates the continuing trend towards the so called liberation of community attitudes. Minority groups, apparently, are the most successful these days in having their own way and exponents of the law reform place a continual burden on the already over-regulated Police.

The Criminal Investigation Bill, lurking in the corridors of Parliament House like a mushroom from an atomic bomb fallout causes concern to all Police throughout Australia. There appears to be a continued trend towards inhibiting the Police as far as possible in their common law duties of protecting life and property and in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. The general public attitude, I suspect, is one of complacency as far as law enforcement is concerned. The judiciary compounds this attitude by their procrastination and obvious unwillingness to support the prosecution by imposing inadequate penalties, that is of course, providing a conviction is won having run the gauntlet of the complexities of the law.

For some time now there has been genuine concern amongst Police, supported in the main by the public, that the scales of justice are heavily weighed in favour of the criminal, yet no-one seems to listen to the warning bells from those whose profession it is to enforce the law and maintain public order. Are we to wait until the pendulum swings too far never to return to normality.

Alan K. Bilbie
Secretary.
FPA