

# Queensland Police Union of Employees

217 North Quay, Brisbane, Qld 4000. Telephone (07) 3259 1900

ABN 75 781 631 327



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Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014  
Submission 002

Fax: (07) 3259 1994

Email: ileavers@qpu.asn.au

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane 4001

By e-mail: [lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Chair,

## **Re: Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014**

On behalf of the Queensland Police Union (QPU) I thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee.

In general terms the QPU is not supportive of the Bill before the House.

The decision to merge sworn Police Officers and unsworn QPS employees into the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) with other departments has completely failed to consider the broader implications of such a move.

Whilst a bureaucrat may well be able to find a few monetary savings by joining departments (and even this is debatable), no one has considered the impact of removing sworn police from the Queensland Police Service.

There is a reason for the widely accepted term "the police family" and that is because all sworn police and QPS employees go way beyond what is industrially mandated to ensure the safety and wellbeing of fellow officers and the community.

There is a tangible commitment and an intangible goodwill by all of these sworn and unsworn employees that contributes greatly to the efficient running of the QPS. The tangible aspects include extra hours of work, unpaid overtime and missed meal breaks.

The intangible include a genuine commitment to do whatever it takes to assist fellow colleagues to do their best for the public and community.

By removing these employees from the QPS, removing them from the internal communication networks and removing their access to some QPS systems has effectively split the "police family" and undermined the goodwill and sense of purpose that led these people to the QPS in the first place.

Indeed police who are now working in the new PSBA refer to themselves as "Pizzbarrians" and no longer as working in the QPS which is a genuine shame.

Further many other police have been told to no longer wear their uniforms to work as it is considered a uniform creates a culture of "us and them", which is odd, because a police officer IS a police officer and if their designation requires them to wear a uniform, they should be able to wear their uniform with pride.

Many police who have been moved to PSBA also believe their careers in the QPS are effectively over and that they now stand no further chance of promotion.

Also, the creation of PSBA has blurred the hierarchical reporting lines and chains of command for many police and police work units.

The negative impacts of this move to a new separate department for some police far outweigh the relatively small monetary savings that may occur.

It is widely accepted that the QPS is very reliant on the goodwill and commitment of its employees.

To directly undermine this "sense of belonging" that is an inherent aspect of all Police organisations is to undermine the long term efficiency of the QPS itself.

Make no mistake, this Bill is designed to "tighten the belt" and create efficiencies and it was compiled by people who have no "hands on" knowledge of working in the Queensland Police Service.

While this bill may aim to save costs, I fear the real costs of fragmenting the QPS will far outweigh any bureaucratic belt tightening.

Essentially, this bill is about taking police further from the front line and rather than utilising their policing skills, turning them into bureaucrats.

I am available on 3259 1900 to discuss the matters I have raised.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ian Leavers".

**IAN LEAVERS**  
**GENERAL PRESIDENT & CEO**