

Question on Notice
No. 742
Asked on 24 May 2017

Mr A Cripps asked Premier and Minister for the Arts (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

With reference to public statements in October 2016 by former New South Wales Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione, advocating for the names of police officers who take their own lives to be included on the National Police Memorial Honour Roll and the November 2016 application by the Ontario Human Rights Commission to include the names of police officers, who die on account of their mental health issues, on the Ontario Police Memorial Wall of Honour—

Will the Premier commit to (a) removing any Queensland rules and/or regulations that discriminate or differentiate between the consequences of mental health injuries, rather than physical injuries, resultant from the service of a police officer, which would preclude their names being included on the Queensland Police Service Honour Roll and (b) supporting the removal of any equivalent rules and/or regulations that would prevent the same outcome being achieved for the National Police Memorial?

ANSWER:

As the Member for Hinchinbrook will be aware, on 29 September each year, the Queensland Police Service holds National Police Remembrance Day (NPRD) celebrations across the State. In Queensland, a candlelight vigil is held on the eve of the NPRD at the site of the Queensland Police Service Memorial and memorial services and street parades are held in Brisbane City and throughout many regional towns to honour the police personnel who have died since the previous NPRD event, including those included on the QPS Honour Roll.

The current QPS Honour Roll Policy mirrors the National Police Memorial criteria which specifies eligibility for inclusion on the Memorial (<http://www.npm.org.au/criteria-for-inclusion>).

I am advised that all Australian policing jurisdictions are currently reviewing the criteria for the placement of names onto their respective Honour Rolls. This is an ongoing process which requires collaborative engagement to establish a nationally consistent outcome.

The mental health of officers is an extremely important matter for police leaders across Australia and I am advised that there is significant work being done in all jurisdictions to address the mental health of officers.