



**The Hon Michael Keenan MP
Minister for Justice
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Counter-Terrorism**

**Jason Wood MP
Member for La Trobe**

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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Government investment in AFP to protect Victorians from gang crime

Federal Member for La Trobe has welcomed the Coalition Government's announcement that Australian Federal Police (AFP) capabilities will be targeted towards combatting gang crime and violence in Victoria.

This is part of the Coalition Government's additional \$321.4 million investment in the AFP that we announced in this year's Budget- the largest single funding increase for the AFP's domestic policing capabilities in more than a decade.

"These violent youth gangs are terrorising our community, and I'm proud to say that after pushing so hard for a Joint Taskforce on these matter we now have the AFP working with VicPol so that we can use VicPol's extensive on the ground knowledge with the AFP superior resources and intelligence to most effectively tackle these criminals" said Mr Wood.

"It's unacceptable that our community is tossing and turning in their beds at night, wondering if their house is going to be broken in to or not – this is what we're coming down hard and combining the efforts of both the AFP and VicPol" said Mr Wood.

This funding will unlock greater access for Victoria Police to the AFP's world-leading forensic, intelligence and high-tech crime fighting capabilities and expertise. It includes measures such as:

- A dedicated AFP out-posted intelligence officer to support Victorian anti-gang investigations;
- Advanced forensic examination capabilities and criminal intelligence mapping to support investigations; and
- Direct access to the AFP's National Forensic Rapid Lab to fast-track evidence collection and analysis to better target criminal gangs.

Minister Keenan said today's announcement means that Victoria Police and the AFP will be able to identify, catch and prosecute these violent criminals faster than ever before.

"Importantly, this will work hand-in-hand with the multi-agency National Anti-Gangs Squad, which received \$3 million in additional Federal funding last year to allow them to continue their work until June 2019," Mr Keenan said.

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