

# MEDIA RELEASE

7 March 2018

## **MORE POLICE FOR MELBOURNE'S NORTH-WEST TO SUPPORT SAFER COMMUNITIES**

Melbourne's north-west will see more police on the streets, with an additional 53 police officers above attrition rate, due to hit the beat over the next year as the Andrews Labor Government continues to deliver the biggest boost to police resources in history.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Police Lisa Neville joined Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton to announce the allocation of the next 825 new police – part of the biggest recruitment effort in Victoria Police's 165-year history.

From next month, this next allocation of the Labor Government funded 3135 new police will start to be deployed to communities across Victoria, with all new police officers on the beat by April next year.

Member for Essendon, Danny Pearson welcomed the 53 new police officers allocated to Melbourne's north-west, saying it came on top of the 89 officers allocated last year.

The new police officers have been allocated to communities based on Victoria Police's Staffing Allocation Model, which examines key data to ensure local communities have the police they need.

The new police officers will be out in the community protecting and serving residents to reduce crime, with the resources they need to target and prevent burglaries, violent crime, and family violence.

The new police officers include an extra 8 police officers allocated to police stations in the north-west as specialist family violence roles, which frees up other police to deal with other crime. It also includes parental leave backfill positions.

Family violence can take up to 60 per cent of police time on shift, with officers attending a family violence incident every seven minutes. These dedicated resources will be a huge benefit to local stations.

The resourcing boost is part of the Labor Government's Community Safety Statement, which is underpinned by a record \$2 billion investment that is giving police the resources, powers and laws it needs to keep Victoria safe.

Thanks to this boost, Victorians are starting to see more police on the street, more proactive patrols and resources to target crime.

The record investment in police and community safety is already making a difference, with crime decreasing for two consecutive quarters – with the most

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recent data from the independent crime statistics agency showing the biggest drop in the crime rate in more than 10 years.

## **Quotes attributable to Member for Essendon, Danny Pearson**

*“The safety of our local community is key and we’ve listened to police to give them everything they need – the resources, the technology and the powers – to keep the community safe.”*

*“Our communities in Melbourne’s north-west can expect to see more police on the street, more proactive patrols and even stronger enforcement over the next 12 months.”*

*“This is another major community safety boost for Melbourne’s north-west, with an extra 53 officers to hit the beat over the next year as part of our record funding for police.”*