



## M E D I A R E L E A S E

**REDFERN CRIME PLAN:**  
**ENHANCED NUMBERS, TRAINING, RESPONSE AND RELATIONS**

16 July 2004

Minister for Police John Watkins, Commissioner Ken Moroney and Deputy Commissioner Dave Madden today released a major package of reforms to assist and enhance policing in Redfern.

The Minister, Commissioner and Deputy said the plan would deliver increased community safety, crime reduction, greater operational effectiveness and strategies, and support for local frontline police.

The plan includes:

- **Enhanced police numbers and resources:** including a 29-member TAG team, the expansion of Operation Concertinas from eight to 20 officers, 10 extra criminal investigators, five additional general duties staff – all housed in the new seven-storey, \$6 million police station;
- **More experienced police at Redfern:** suspending the allocation of Probationary Constables to Redfern LAC, and direct transferring police from other commands into vacant Redfern positions;
- **Enhanced incident response:** through the Operation Vikings Street Crime Unit a 24-hour, seven day Operational Support Group for rapid response to public order incidents, a fully-equipped Command and Control vehicle, riot training for all police recruits, and new riot gear for Redfern LAC;
- **Enhanced criminal investigation resources:** in addition to three new Sergeants and one constable for the criminal investigator ranks, six additional investigators will be seconded to Redfern to specifically target drug crime and robbery;
- **Greater support for Redfern police from other NSW Police commands:** including a review of incident and emergency management training, extra riot training for commands adjacent to Redfern, and a greater focus from Dog Squad, Transit, Highway Patrol and Anti-Theft teams; and
- **Enhanced community engagement and cultural awareness of police:** additional cultural awareness training for local police, the implementation of local liaison committees, two Youth Liaison Officers will receive additional training, all four Redfern ACLO positions will be filled, and continued involvement by police in the Redfern/Waterloo Partnership Project.

Mr Watkins said the plan had been devised based on advice from operational police, evidence to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Redfern, and an internal review that reported to the Commissioner.

“Police have done the heavy lifting in Redfern for far too long – which everyone recognises,” Mr Watkins said.

“While this plan provides us with additional resources and strategies for day to day crime-fighting and community safety, we still hope to see creative recommendations come forward from the Upper House inquiry about the deep social problems faced in the area.”

Commissioner Moroney said the package enhanced the operational policing response in Redfern.

“This plan seeks to provide reassurance to a range of community concerns. At the same time, it sends a strong message of deterrence to those engaged in criminal and anti-social behaviour,” the Commissioner said.

“The police at Redfern have our full support, and they’ll continue to do a good job under difficult circumstances. These additional resources can only boost their success in the fight against crime.”

Deputy Commissioner (Operations) Dave Madden said the initiatives would allow a greater concentration on both proactive policing and the investigation of offences.

“Police will be focused on investigating crimes, catching offenders and using all legislation available to charge them and put them before the courts,” Mr Madden said.

“We can all look forward to excellent results from the sustained attention these additional resources will deliver.

“The entire NSW Police force supports Redfern LAC. I imagine officers from across NSW will grab the new opportunities to work at Redfern.

“We will catch those responsible for robberies and violent offences and confront them with the full force of the law.”

Mr Watkins, Mr Moroney and Mr Madden said at the time of the riot, Redfern LAC had 170 police.

“This plan will take the actual number of officers available to around 220,” Mr Watkins said.

“The Commissioner, Deputy and I will review the results of these new initiatives in six months time, to ensure the best possible outcome for our frontline police,” he said.

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