

FACT SHEET

Sentencing Amendment (Assaults on Off-Duty Police) Bill 2017

The Government has introduced legislation into Parliament to provide off-duty police officers with the same level of protection from assault that is received by on-duty police officers.

The nature of police work means police officers often come into conflict with individuals in the execution of their duty. Individuals aggrieved by police interventions may subsequently feel malice towards police, either individually or generally, and may draw no distinction between when a police officer is on-duty or off-duty. In fact, acting on that malice may be more likely against an off-duty police officer, who won't be as well-equipped or supported as an on-duty member.

To deter offences against off-duty police officers, the Bill extends the existing mandatory sentencing provision in section 16A of the *Sentencing Act 1997* for persons who commit offences against on-duty police officers that result in serious bodily harm, to also cover off-duty police officers. However, to ensure the provision does not apply to an offence against an off-duty police officer that is not motivated by their position as a police officer, the provision in relation to off-duty police officers will be limited to circumstances where the offence was committed solely or partly because the police officer was a police officer