

Assistant Commissioner Dawson retires

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S. Dau

Assistant Commissioner Peter Dawson

Assistant Commissioner Peter Dawson retired from the AFP on April 18 after 35 years police service including the past four years as the Chief Police Officer for the ACT.

He said: "This period has been the most challenging and rewarding of my police career. I am grateful for the experience of working with so many great people and the Australian Federal Police Association in improving performance and productivity through efficiencies and better systems during a difficult period of achieving budget cuts.

"It has been particularly pleasing to see from community surveys conducted during this period, that Canberran's satisfaction with their police continued to rise to new heights and their fear of crime continues to fall.

"There is an exciting future for policing in Canberra with the

introduction of diversionary conferencing for less serious offences as an alternative to being dealt with criminally before the courts and of course, in the event of additional resources becoming available, seeing the gradual spread of the more personalised 'Country Town Policing' approach across the Canberra suburbs.

"The people of Canberra have a great police service in the AFP and can be proud of its membership. By the same token, the AFP membership knows full well that it serves a great community."

Assistant Commissioner Dawson started his police career with the ACT Police in 1959.

For the first few years he carried out patrol and general duties before moving to the Criminal Investigation Division.

In 1963, after attending the Victoria Police detective course, he was designated detective.

Assistant Commissioner Dawson completed a variety of assignments

and postings throughout his career including OIC, Darwin relief contingent after Cyclone Tracey, liaison officer with the Australian Institute of Criminology, Commander AFP Academy and Chairman of the AFP Promotion Committee for Commissioned Officers.

He was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 1980.

In 1988, he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner and in 1991 appointed as Chief Police Officer for the ACT. In 1993, Assistant Commissioner Dawson was appointed as a member of the ACT Community Law Reform Committee.

AFP Commissioner Mick Palmer commended the initiatives that Mr Dawson had taken in the development of policing in the ACT.

"Peter has been one of Australia's most innovative police officers during his career. He is admired for his intellectual and innovative capabilities and his retirement is well earned and deserved," Commissioner Palmer said.