

# Condolences

Following the death of the ACT Chief Police Officer, Assistant Commissioner Audrey Fagan on 20 April 2007, condolences flowed into the Commissioner's Office from politicians, police chiefs, community leaders and friends. These messages were loaded on to the AFP's intraweb bulletin board for viewing by members. Here is an edited selection of those messages.

## **John Howard**

### **Prime Minister of Australia:**

Assistant Commissioner Fagan was a respected police officer. She made an exceptional contribution to the Australian Federal Police and to both the Federal and ACT Governments.

Her leadership [here in Australia] through the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States and contribution to the National Counter Terrorism Committee was first class.

Janette and I join the many Australians who knew and respected Ms Fagan in offering our sincere condolences to both Ms Fagan's family and to the Australian Federal Police.

## **Senator Chris Ellison**

### **Minister for Human Services**

(former Minister for Justice and Customs)  
The people of the ACT have lost an outstanding leader of their police force and the AFP one of its finest members.

Having worked with her over several years I cannot speak highly enough of her professionalism and integrity. We will all miss her dearly.

Her contribution to Australia's counter terrorism effort was exceptional – a fact recognised in 2004 when she was awarded the Australian Police Medal.

It should also be noted that the award citation recognised Audrey's work in enhancing and promoting the role of women in law enforcement. She was a wonderful model for those women

pursuing, or considering, a career in policing.

Assistant Commissioner Fagan had made a distinguished contribution to advancing the interests of women in Australian law enforcement through forums such as the Women in Law Enforcement Strategy.

### **Gwen Winchester:**

Audrey had made it a point of keeping in touch with my family on a regular basis with afternoon teas in her office and Peter and I were invited recently to view a plaque in the foyer of the Winchester Centre ... my condolences to you and all AFP Officers at this very difficult time...

## **ACT Police and Emergency Services**

### **Minister Simon Corbell:**

I have been privileged to work closely with Audrey since becoming Police Minister last year, her kind nature, calm and measured approach and her professionalism to her work was greatly appreciated by me and all who worked with her.

The ACT has lost an outstanding police officer. Her loss is keenly felt.

## **Commissioner Ken Moroney**

### **NSW Police:**

Ms Fagan did much to advance the role of women in policing not only within the AFP but equally as important, across the whole of Australia – we shall miss her dearly.



While Australian policing is the poorer for her passing, we are the richer for having known her.

## **Deputy Commissioner Jack Johnson** **Tasmania Police:**

She was an exceptional contributor to national policing – always well prepared, always welcomed and always a nice person.

She was well-known and well liked in Tasmania, especially in our counter-terrorism community.

## **Commissioner Mal Hyde** **South Australia Police:**

Audrey was a leader and skilful professional police officer, she was a wonderful example to others and she will be sorely missed.

## **Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon** **Victoria Police:**

Ms Fagan was a shining example for all policewomen and a great person, who was extremely committed to her work.

She raised a family at the same time as always being supportive to her colleagues and managed to balance them both.

She had a great sense of humour and was a fine Chief Police Officer.

## **Bill Stefaniak**

### **ACT Opposition Leader:**

She had a great sense of humour, a great warmth and enjoyment of life – she was



an active person, enjoyed her family, enjoyed meeting other people.

**Kevin J Schamburg**  
**Acting General Manager**

**AIDS Action Council of the ACT:**  
 The Board and Staff of the AIDS Action Council of the ACT will miss her attendance at our events during the year and the personal as well as the professional support she showed to the GLLO Network, the HIV/AIDS area and to other community organisations like ours, this was an important part of breaking down barriers within the general community.

**Terence Higgins**  
**Chief Justice, ACT Supreme Court:**

Ms Fagan was a dedicated, perceptive and sincere police officer of exceptional skill. Her commitment to policing services and the ACT community was of the highest standard, providing a benchmark for all in the policing service.

**Sam Wong**  
**Chair – Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) Inc:**

We have lost one of our most respected and thoughtful members of the AFP and a great friend of Multicultural Community.

**Commissioner Howard Broad**  
**New Zealand Police:**

I was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Assistant Commissioner Audrey Fagan. Please accept my sincere

condolences personally and on behalf of New Zealand Police to Audrey's family, friends and colleagues during this difficult time.

**Debbie Wauchop**  
**Chair Women in Law Enforcement Strategy Steering Committee:**

Audrey inspired us with her absolute commitment to her profession and the energy she applied to her job. Her passion for supporting and mentoring women working in the law enforcement environment and encouraging them to pursue their ambitions, including through her role as the most recent past Chair of the WILES Steering Committee, will be an enduring legacy.

Audrey was a highly respected and admired leader, a dear friend to many of us, and touched our lives with her candid perspectives on the challenges and rewards of working in law enforcement.

**Margaret Moore**  
**Executive Director Women in Federal Law Enforcement (US):**

An introduction to Audrey seemed to solidify the bond that women in policing share worldwide. We know the challenges we face in top positions and we know the comfort we bring to each other knowing that we walk along the same paths. Indeed, many women in the AFP were very proud of Audrey and her accomplishments. And those accomplishments will always stand.

A Guard of Honour forms as the hearse carrying Assistant Commissioner Fagan's casket leaves St Christopher's Cathedral.

Most recently I met with her again on her trip to the United States. Audrey was a very warm and kind person and made such a positive impact on all who met her. The law enforcement community will miss her immensely.

Women in Federal Law Enforcement enjoys a wonderful relationship with the Australian Federal Police and with its members here at the Embassy in Washington, DC. We can only be so humbled to have met Audrey through that association.

We stand united in our grief and we will always remember Audrey.



Photo by Beck Browne