

CLA proposes:

The Coroner to recommend, in the interests of public health and safety,

- (1) that the text below be placed at the commencement of the publication “AFP National Guideline: ACT Policing: Urgent Duty Driving and Pursuits”, and any publication for or upon a like subject matter, and
- (2) that the same be declared to be the law of the Australian Capital Territory by a due enactment of the Parliament of the Territory:

“The following text comprises the paramount guideline and mandate for the conduct of all police officers connected with urgent duty driving and pursuits:

The immediate apprehension of suspected wrongdoers is **not** the first duty of a police officer. Police officers at all times shall rely on the techniques and resources of criminal investigation, upon the gathering of information, and upon information gathered about the conduct of persons as a first means of interviewing or apprehending persons suspected to be or to have been engaged in or guilty of conduct wrongful under the law.

In or on a public road or street, or in a public place, it is the paramount duty of a police officer to do only those things which are in interest of the preservation of all human life, or in the interest of the keeping of all persons from the risk of harm to health or safety. **A police officer shall refrain from conduct which may put the life or health or safety of any person at the risk of harm.**

It is not the paramount duty of a police officer in or on public roads or streets or in public places to protect the property or the rights in property of third persons, where there is risk of harm to the life, health or safety of any person.

**No officer of police with less than 15 years’ experience as a police officer shall engage in urgent duty driving or drive or accompany the driver of any vehicle in pursuit of a person or persons riding in or on another vehicle.**

No vehicle shall be used by an officer in pursuit of another vehicle on a public street or in a public place,

- (a) which is not marked fully and prominently in the usual manner as a vehicle of police, and
- (b) which is not equipped with and is not utilising fully sirens and lights and other devices for the warning of persons at risk of harm.”