



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## MEDIA RELEASE



### Grimley Calls for More Tasers for Police (Again)

10 September 2021

State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, Stuart Grimley MP has asked the Police Minister for the Victorian Government to deliver tasers to all frontline police officers. This comes after a Victorian police officer was seriously injured on the job last month.

Mr Grimley has raised this issue at least four times since his election to the Legislative Council. However, there has been no action from the government to ensure all frontline police have a taser when leaving their station. Mr Grimley has asked the Minister to expand on the state's taser availability and what plans are underway for taser rollouts.

Having spoken to the victims' family as well as The Police Association, Mr Grimley said it was time to stop kicking the tumbleweed down the road and fund the rollout.

We still see frontline Victorian police attending callouts and walking the beat without this non-lethal weapon. In this day and age, we should make sure that police are given the best tools to perform their jobs. It could mean the difference between life or death.

As a former police officer Mr Grimley knows all too well the challenges police face on a day-to-day basis. Often police will attend a job without knowing what they are walking into, if a perpetrator is violent, has a weapon or if they could be attacked.

OC spray may well subdue some violent perpetrators, however for others, it could have little effect. The next option for police could be their firearm, which is a big jump from non-lethal OC spray.

#### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"It is ridiculous that our police are underequipped when they are performing their jobs. We wouldn't send our firefighters to battle fires without all the correct equipment, so why would we send our police to scenes without a taser?"

"When I read the original article about the young Constable who was shot in the leg I was extremely concerned. The biggest kick in the guts was the quote from the government spokesperson who said "(we will) continue to work closely with Victoria Police to inform future investments in equipment and other policing needs". Police have been calling for tasers for years, and I have brought this to the government's attention at least four times in Parliament. The case for future investment has been proven.

"How many more police need to get hurt or killed before the government takes action? In a time where we are spending billions of dollars over budget on infrastructure projects, surely the government can find funding to protect our protectors and our community.

"I will continue to lobby the government to provide the best equipment available for Victorian Police officers. The Minister has an obligation to ensure police are equipped with the best tools for their job. We must ensure our police – and community – are as safe as possible. I look forward to the Minister's response.

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