



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 4 May 2012

DELIVERING SAFER STREETS: NSW GOVT WELCOMES 309 NEW POLICE OFFICERS

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Minister for Police and Emergency Services Mike Gallacher today welcomed 309 Police officers graduating from the Goulburn Police Academy, ready to hit the streets across NSW to make our community safer.

"This is great news for local communities right across NSW who will benefit from having more police on the beat," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Western Sydney is the big winner from this graduating class with nearly half allocated to the region," he said.

"The NSW Government committed to recruit an additional 550 officers and this is proof we are getting on with the job of delivering.

"We are committed to providing the NSW Police Force with the resources and the powers to continue fighting crime and making our community a safer place," he said.

Joining the Premier and the Minister at today's graduation was NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione, Deputy Commissioners Nick Kaldas and Catherine Burn and Acting Deputy Commissioner Dave Hudson.

Mr Gallacher said last December, some 300 probationary constables were allocated to Local Area Commands outside Sydney that had long been neglected by the past Labor Government.

"Today, we welcome the next phase of officer allocations with a further 230 officers allocated to Metropolitan Commands," Mr Gallacher said.

"Almost 70 officers will be allocated to South West Sydney alone, while a further 70 will arrive in stations in the North West.

"This graduating class is made up of individuals that come from diverse careers and experiences with 24 graduates over the age of 36, bringing new skills and ways to look at issues for the Police Force.

"In this group of officers, there are more than 20 languages spoken with graduates born across 25 different countries– reflecting the great diversity of the NSW Police Force.

“The range of skills, languages, backgrounds and careers amongst this class is an important asset to the future of policing in NSW.

“As a former officer, I understand the excitement that these officers are experiencing today, knowing that they are about to embark on a very rewarding, if at times tough, career.

“I would also like to thank the Force for the incredible job they do in serving our local community and I am thrilled that we are on the way to boosting numbers right across NSW,” Minister Gallacher said.

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