

CRITICAL INCIDENT FAQ'S – SHEET 1



Does the member involved in a critical incident need to provide a version to a senior officer or Duty Officer?

- ✓ **Yes** The involved member should provide a brief in the form of a public safety statement (what had occurred and situational assessment) to the senior officer or Duty Officer upon their arrival at the scene. The purpose of this statement is to ensure an appropriate policing response, investigative and support approach can be coordinated. The member does however have rights and will be provided legal advice and support by Unions prior to any formalised investigative processes.

It is important to note that the members involved in the Critical Incident are not to discuss what had just occurred with any other persons involved in the incident in question.

Do members involved in a Critical Incident need to be kept separated from other involved in the incident?

- ✗ **No** There is no need for members to be physically separated from other members involved in the same incident. Members are able to comfort each other as needed; however, they need to refrain from discussing the occurrences with other members.

There may be times that the member may find it beneficial to be separated from other members involved in the same incident (*example: When seeking legal or Union council*).

Dedicated PFA resources is advised not to discuss the details of the incident with any members prior to the completion of the internal investigation processes. On completion of the internal investigation processes it may be beneficial for members to discuss the details of the incident with the dedicated PFA resource.

Can an involved member eat and drink?

- ✓ **Yes** There is policy in relation to substance and alcohol testing that requires the involved member to provide a sample of urine for analysis. In relation to this test, it is required that members consume up to a maximum of 500ml of water if necessary. However common sense prevails, member wellbeing is paramount, so if a member is dehydrated or in need of further hydration it can be consumed where necessary.

If the member is in need to nourishment, food can be consumed as required.

Can a member contact a spouse or partner?

- ✓ **Yes** Although members are not allowed to discuss the incident with other QPS members involved in the incident, they are able to discuss the incident with a spouse or partner, and to provide necessary information about their safety and immediate arrangements.

It is often a good consideration to contact relevant loved ones at the first available opportunity, as these types of incidents attract public and media attention and rapid advice can reduce the emotional stress on family members.

If the member is not comfortable contacting their family, significant other or loved ones, the dedicated PFA resource, Chaplain or Union representative will be able to assist with this function upon the members advice.

Will the member be stood down?

- ✗ **No** Not unless investigations reveal that there is conduct deemed serious misconduct or corruption.