



# ACT Policing – mistaken arrest of Aboriginal teenager

Public statement – 1 December 2025 (updated 10 December 2025)

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**The Commonwealth and ACT Ombudsman, Iain Anderson, has opened an own motion investigation into the mistaken arrest of an Aboriginal teenager during a search for an alleged offender on 11 November 2025.**

As the Commonwealth and ACT Ombudsman, I maintain oversight of the Australian Federal Police and ACT Policing.

On 19 November 2025, I was made aware of an incident where an Aboriginal teenager was taken off a bus by ACT Policing at gunpoint and was mistakenly arrested during a search for an alleged offender.

On 21 November 2025, I wrote to the AFP Commissioner opening an own motion investigation into the incident.

While I consider AFP Professional Standards (PRS) are generally best placed to investigate misconduct allegations, the incident raises questions beyond the conduct of individual officers.

My investigation will consider the entirety of the incident with a focus on systems, practice improvements and lessons that can be learned.

I will also oversight the PRS investigation in my normal role as Commonwealth Ombudsman.

To help my investigation, my Office would be interested to hear from any people who were on the bus at the time of the incident.

If you were on the bus and you'd like to talk to us, I encourage you to reach out by emailing [ACTinvestigations@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ACTinvestigations@ombudsman.gov.au) or calling (02) 5117 3650.

Investigations under the *Ombudsman Act 1976* (Cth) and *Ombudsman Act 1989* (ACT) are conducted in private.



For more information visit [ombudsman.act.gov.au](https://ombudsman.act.gov.au) or call 1300 362 072.

**Iain Anderson**  
**Commonwealth and ACT Ombudsman**