



COMMUNIQUÉ

Council of Attorneys-General and Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management

28 June 2019

A joint meeting of the Council of Attorneys-General and the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management was held on 28 June 2018 in Adelaide, South Australia. Representatives were present from all Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand.

The meeting was co-chaired by the South Australian Attorney-General, the Hon Vickie Chapman MP, and Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, the Hon Corey Wingard MP.

Summary of Decisions

New Zealand's Firearms Reforms

New Zealand briefed Council Members on the consultation process undertaken as part of the recent changes to its firearms legislation. New Zealand also provided Council Members with information on its proposed firearms buyback scheme that is being implemented to support its changes to firearms legislation. Ministers also committed to ensuring Australia's approach to the regulation of firearms prioritises the safety and security of all Australians.

Family Law Personal Protection Injunctions

Council Members noted that work will continue in order to have family law personal protection injunctions enforceable by state and territory police, removing the onus from victims to initiate their own family law proceedings.

Firearms and Family Violence

Council Members agreed to improve information sharing between the Family Courts and Firearms Registries. Ministers also agreed to a project to ensure interim or current methods of sharing information can be implemented Australia-wide.

Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse

Combatting child sexual abuse requires close collaboration across all jurisdictions. Council Members noted the Final Report of the National Working Group on Measures Concerning Child Sex Offenders. The work of this multijurisdictional group led to a number of key

outcomes, including the implementation of overseas travel restrictions for child sex offenders, ministerial agreement to apply state and territory registration schemes to Commonwealth child sex offenders, and efforts to enhance information sharing between jurisdictions.

Council Members noted that states and territories that have not yet progressed legislative amendments to expand their registration and supervision schemes to apply to Commonwealth child sex offenders should do so as soon as practicable. Council Members also agreed for the Commonwealth, states and territories to continue to work together through existing channels to strengthen cross-jurisdictional information sharing and cooperation on measures concerning child sex offenders.

National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders

The Council noted the effectiveness of any National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders will need to be evidence-based and at present that evidence base has not been identified. Council Members agreed the National Working Group on Child Sex Offenders be reconvened to continue its work in assessing the merits or otherwise of limited notification schemes and assess whether the Commonwealth proposal for a National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders is in the best interests of community safety. The Working Group is to report back to the joint meeting by the end of 2019.

Nationally Consistent Legislation for Children Born to Witness Protection

Council Members agreed to the establishment of a joint agency Working Group to progress the development of nationally consistent legislation for children born to parents under witness protection.

Nationally Consistent Legislation and Reciprocal Arrangements for Persons Banned from Casinos and Racing Venues

Council Members agreed to the establishment of a joint agency Working Group to progress the development of nationally consistent legislation and reciprocal arrangements for Casino and Racing exclusion orders.

Digital Currencies and Assets Derived from Block Chain Technology

Council Members endorsed the establishment of a senior officers group, led by NSW, to inform the development of a position paper regarding block chain technology and its application to, and impact on, law enforcement.