

# Communiqué

## Law, Crime and Community Safety Council

**3 October 2014**

The second meeting of the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (**LCCSC**) for 2014 was held on 3 October 2014 in Geelong, Victoria. The Victorian Attorney-General, the Hon Robert Clark MP and Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Kim Wells MP, chaired the meeting. Ministers from the Commonwealth, each state and territory with portfolio responsibility for law and justice, police and emergency management were in attendance as was a representative of the Australian Local Government Association. Due to the recent election, New Zealand ministers were not able to attend however New Zealand was represented by officials from New Zealand Police.

### Summary of decisions

#### Session 1: Law Reform

##### National legal assistance reforms

Ministers:

- a) noted the draft national strategic framework for legal assistance
- b) noted that the final national strategic framework for legal assistance will underpin future funding arrangements. The content of future funding arrangements will be negotiated at officer level, for discussion at the next LCCSC meeting.

#### Session 2: Law Enforcement and Community Safety

##### New counter-terrorism measures

The Australian Government provided a report on the new \$630 million counter-terrorism response package and legislation reform.

Ministers engaged in a wide ranging discussion on new counter-terrorism measures. Ministers identified the criticality of ongoing partnership between jurisdictions to effectively respond to the terrorism threat, including the challenge of home grown terrorism and Australians fighting in Syria and Iraq. Australia's counter-terrorism arrangements are well established and regularly exercised to ensure they remain robust and relevant in the current threat environment.

Ministers noted that strong and effective engagement between governments and Australian community leaders will continue to be essential to build resilience to

radicalisation and to countering violent extremism in all its forms. Ministers recognised that one of Australia's strengths is its harmonious, diverse, multicultural, multi-faith community and this needs to be preserved and protected.

### **Facial biometric matching to support security and law enforcement outcomes**

Ministers:

- a) noted that the use of fraudulent identities is well known to be a key enabler of organised crime groups and terrorists—to avoid detection both at the border and when operating within Australia
- b) noted the Commonwealth's plans to establish a National Facial Biometric Matching Capability to help agencies share and match facial images used on proof of identity documents more efficiently to detect and prevent the use of fraudulent identities
- c) (c) noted that this initiative provides a mechanism to share existing information collected by agencies across jurisdictions and that the capability would continue to operate within the strong protection provided under the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)* and state and territory information privacy regimes, and
- d) agreed to consider the scope for state and territory agencies to participate in the capability, with senior officials to report back to the Council in early 2015 on options for a way forward.

### **National cooperative scheme on unexplained wealth**

Ministers agreed to continue to develop a national cooperative scheme on unexplained wealth and to enhance cooperative national efforts to utilise unexplained wealth laws to disrupt and undermine serious and organised crime in Australia.

### **National Domestic Violence Order Scheme**

Ministers have agreed to progress a National Domestic Violence Order Scheme underpinned by model legislation to enable the recognition and enforcement of domestic violence orders across jurisdictions. Ministers agreed that model legislation will be considered at the next meeting in April 2015.

CrimTrac have been provided with Commonwealth funding, over three years, to scope, develop and test a prototype information sharing system for domestic violence orders.

### **Publishing sex offender details**

Having consulted with Australian law enforcement agencies and assessed the empirical evidence on the efficacy of public notification schemes, LCCSC Ministers have concluded that Mr Hinch's proposal to publish a national public register of all

convicted sex offenders is not supported. LCCSC Ministers will continue to monitor evidence on the efficacy of schemes involving limited public disclosure of sex offenders' details, such as those operating in South Australia and Western Australia, with a view to discussing that evidence at a future date.

### **Response to serious and organised crime**

The Commonwealth and state and territory governments are working collaboratively to develop Australia's new National Organised Crime Response Plan, for release in 2015.

### **Distribution of drugs through postal/parcel service and the increased use of 'dark net'**

Ministers supported adopting targeted, collaborative, illicit drug operations in all jurisdictions to address the emerging issue of internet based illicit drug trafficking and new psychoactive substances.

### **Common legislation in relation to pre-cursor chemicals**

Ministers noted a report from South Australia on precursor chemicals and agreed to refer the matter to the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs for further consideration.

### **Session 3: Emergency Management**

#### **Progress of the Productivity Commission inquiry into natural disaster funding arrangements**

Ministers received an update from the Productivity Commission on their inquiry into natural disaster funding arrangements. Ministers noted that the report will be finalised by the end of 2014.

#### **National Strategy for Disaster Resilience – review of implementation**

Ministers noted progress in reviewing the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

#### **Disaster preparations for the 2014-15 summer**

Ministers noted the activities that have been undertaken or are being progressed in each jurisdiction in preparation for the 2014-2015 summer.

#### **National Fire Danger Ratings System**

Ministers noted the governance framework established for the development of the National Fire Danger Ratings System.