



**Annual Report on the Operation of the
War Crimes Act 1945
1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017**

Attorney-General's Department

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MINISTER'S INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the report on the operation of the *War Crimes Act 1945* for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

No prosecutions or investigations for alleged offences against the Act were commenced during the reporting period.

GEORGE BRANDIS QC
Attorney-General

REPORT REQUIRED BY SECTION 21 OF THE COMMONWEALTH WAR CRIMES ACT 1945 ON THE OPERATION OF THE ACT DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2017

Australia is strongly committed to addressing war crimes and takes allegations of war crimes very seriously. The *Criminal Code Act 1995*, *Geneva Conventions Act 1957* and *Crimes (Hostages) Act 1989* target potential war crimes and crimes against humanity in the modern era. However, the *War Crimes Act 1945* (the Act) was enacted specifically to enable the prosecution of Australian citizens or residents who are known to have committed war crimes in Europe during the Second World War.

Section 21 of the Act requires the Attorney-General to, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year:

- (a) cause a report about the operation of the Act during the year ending on that 30 June to be prepared, and
- (b) cause a copy of the report to be laid before each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days after it is prepared.

Number of suspected offences against the Act under investigation during the reporting period

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) did not receive any referrals of alleged war crimes relevant to the Act during the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

COMMONWEALTH DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Number of Prosecutions Commenced

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) did not commence any prosecutions under the Act during the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Resources of the CDPP allocated to War Crime Prosecutions

Nil.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

The AFP did not receive any referrals or commence any investigations into allegations of war crimes relevant to the Act during the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Resources of the AFP allocated to War Crime Investigations

Nil.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE
BRANCH [ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT]**

Financial Assistance Expenditure

There was no financial assistance expenditure under the Act during the period
1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

**Resources of the Legal Assistance Branch applied for the purposes of the
defence**

Nil.

**INTERNATIONAL CRIME COOPERATION CENTRAL AUTHORITY
[ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT]**

Mutual assistance and extradition

The Australian Government considers that all extradition and mutual assistance requests
received from foreign countries are confidential and does not disclose the existence of
any such request unless public action is taken in response to a request.

During the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, Australia did not take any action on
mutual assistance or extradition requests concerning war crimes committed during the
Second World War.