

28 November 2018

Senator the Hon. Ian MacDonald
Committee Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

I write to you concerning evidence provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Estimates hearing on 22 October 2018.

I have identified corrections required to the Hansard, regarding two pieces of evidence I provided firstly in relation to the work of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) and secondly, regarding the expansion of the ThinkUKnow cyber safety awareness program.

During the hearing, in exchanges with Senator Jim Molan, I stated:

***Senator MOLAN:** Good; thank you for that. On this day of an apology to sexually exploited children, can you give us an update, please, on the operation of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation—you mentioned that before. I'd be very interested to link that to something that we're doing as a result of bringing the apology into reality.*

***Mr Colvin:** Absolutely. I'll hand to Deputy Commissioner Gaughan. There has been good success in the first few months of us standing up that centre.*

***Mr Gaughan:** From 1 July to 17 October, working with our state and territory partners, we've removed 44 children from harm nationally. That includes not only child exploitation matters but also instances involving human trafficking. Through international partnerships we've identified a number of children who were subjected to child abuse, particularly in relation to the production of child exploitation material, and we've identified 106 children who were not previously known to law enforcement, which is obviously the first step to recovering those children once they're identified. We commenced, again with our state and territory colleagues, criminal proceedings against 40 offenders in Australia for 173 charges, and we've supported the arrest of 20 offenders overseas. So, by any measure, it's been a pretty successful few months.*

I wish to clarify that from 1 July to 17 October 2018, working with our state and territory partners the AFP has:

- Removed 44 children from harm nationally and internationally.
- Contributed on 106 occasions, material not previously known to law enforcement to assist international efforts in identifying children subject of child exploitation material. This is often the first step to identifying the victims.
- Charged, summonsed or cautioned 22 offenders for a total of 58 offences relating to child exploitation and abuse. This does not include matters led by state and territory partners.

During the hearing, also in exchanges with Senator Jim Molan, I stated:

Mr Gaughan: The commission has spoken about ThinkUKnow. We've also successfully rolled that out overseas as well, particularly into South-East Asia. For education purposes, this is really important.

I wish to clarify that the ACCCE intends to engage with our law enforcement partners and non-government organisations in South-East Asia to develop a cyber and child safety awareness program in South-East Asia, inspired by the ThinkUKnow model.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Gaughan APM
Deputy Commissioner Operations