



VICTORIA POLICE

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Committee Secretary
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
The Senate - Parliament of Australia

Via email to legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Inquiry into the Criminal Code Amendment (Protecting Minors Online) Bill 2017

Victoria Police welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the Criminal Code Amendment (Protecting Minors Online) Bill 2017.

Victoria Police is committed to protecting children, including from online predators. It recognises that the exploitation of children is facilitated by the availability of the internet and that offending is increasingly becoming more sophisticated through the use of developing technology.

In July 2012, Victoria Police established Taskforce Astraea to respond to contemporary trends in internet child exploitation. In October 2014, Taskforce Astraea and members of the Australian Federal Police merged to form the Joint Anti-Child Exploitation Team (JACET), which operates from the Serious Crime Division of Crime Command, Victoria Police. The investigative and protection work undertaken by JACET reflects the growing national and international environment for online child exploitation.

The Criminal Code Amendment (Protecting Minors Online) Bill 2017 introduces an offence which will complement the existing offences in Part 10.6 of Commonwealth Criminal Code and Division 1 of Part 1 of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic), which deal with offending against children. The Bill will also assist Victoria Police and its law enforcement partners to disrupt offending against children prior to harm or sexual activity taking place and ensure law enforcement powers are available to combat all Commonwealth child-sex related offending.

Victoria Police supports this Bill.

Should you have any questions or require further information regarding this submission,
please contact Director, Legal Operations, Commissions & Inquiries Division
on

Yours sincerely

Graham Ashton AM
Chief Commissioner

09 / 06 / 2017