



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Institute of Criminology**

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7 August 2009

Mr Peter Hallahan  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hallahan

I am writing to you in connection with the Senate's Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs inquiry into the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Bill 2009 (the Bill).

Although the Australian Institute of Criminology is not proposing to comment specifically on the provisions of this Bill, I welcome the opportunity to provide the Standing Committee with an outline of the work recently or currently being undertaken by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) on serious and organised crime and transnational crime. The AIC has had a major research role in issues relating to these issues for a number of years and this has taken many forms, including involvement in conferences, submissions to government and a large number of publications.

Over the past five years the AIC has been successful in undertaking a substantial amount of research on transnational and organised crime. Initially the AIC undertook research on major forms of organised crime, such as illicit drug trafficking, emerging issues and on trends in the region. This work led to published reports on corruption, the illegal timber trade in the region, on the demand and supply of amphetamine-type stimulants in Oceania, and on transnational crime in the Pacific. The AIC also undertook a review, as part of a global United Nations initiative, to document Australia's efforts to tackle transnational and organised crime.

Increasingly, this program of research has been expanded by research projects funded by external agencies such as the Australian Customs Service, the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Australian Crime Commission, and the Office of Women.

This research has covered many topics, including:

- the precursor chemical trade in the Pacific
- an evaluation of a trial that sought to employ new methodologies of air cargo screening
- high tech crime
- a review of child sex offences in the Asia Pacific region
- a review of Commonwealth criminal penalties
- crime in the Australian fishing industry
- intellectual property crime
- trafficking of women for sexual purposes

- human trafficking, and
- money laundering and terrorist financing.

The AIC is continuing research in areas such as human trafficking, money laundering and terrorist financing and intends to produce further publications in these areas shortly. At present, with the assistance of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, the AIC is researching the vulnerability of a number of professional sectors to risks relating to money laundering and the financing of terrorism. These sectors include the legal profession, the accounting profession, the real estate industry, dealers in precious metals and stones, and trust and company service providers.

The AIC also monitors on an ongoing basis various discrete forms of serious crime, including homicide and armed robbery in Australia which can have organised crime involvement. It also monitors firearms theft, and has, on an intermittent basis, examined more broadly trends in weapon use in the commission of crime. Another monitoring program provides important national indicator data on illicit drug use trends and on local drug markets. To provide a national picture of crime and justice in Australia, the AIC publishes every year key statistics on major types of crime, on victims and offenders, and on the cost of various components of the criminal justice system, as well as on court outcomes and imprisonment trends.

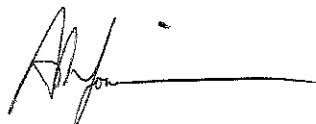
Although not all aspects of this research and statistical data are directly relevant to organised crime risks, it provides crucial information that enables further work to be undertaken on what proportion of crime may be due to more organised criminal activity, and whether there are indications or signs that more serious crime is being committed. For example, analysis has been undertaken and published in papers on contract killings and on changes in the type of offenders committing armed robbery.

Another important component of AIC research has been the projects that have examined criminal activity and opportunities for criminal activity due to rapid expansion of information and communication technologies. This included a major report on future directions in computer enabled crime, and a range of papers and short briefs on various facets of information technology, such as mobile phones and the internet, and the risk implications for business and government. Recently the AIC published a report on the findings of the most comprehensive survey of Australian business on their experiences and prevention measures to address computer enabled crime. Other projects have focused on economic or financial crime, including a project on serious fraud, and the current major research program on money laundering, which is a crime that the more serious or organised criminals are likely to be involved in.

I **attach** a list of a number of AIC publications relevant to serious and organised crime and transnational crime.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr Judy Putt, head of research at the AIC, if you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission. Her contact details are phone 02 6260 9231 and email [judy.putt@aic.gov.au](mailto:judy.putt@aic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



(Dr) Adam Tomison  
Director

Select Publications List

*Organised and Transnational Crime*

- Bartels L 2009. The status of the laws on OMCG in Australia. *Research in practice* no 2. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Putt J and Nelson D K 2009. Crime in the Australian fishing industry. *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice* no 366. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- McCusker R 2008. *The precursor chemical trade in Oceania*. Research and public policy series no 96. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- David F 2008. *Trafficking of women for sexual purposes*. Research and public policy series no 95. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- David F 2008. Prosecuting trafficking in persons: known issues, emerging responses. *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice* no 358. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Australian Institute of Criminology 2008. People smuggling verses trafficking in persons: what is the difference? *Transnational crime brief* no 2. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- David F 2007. Law enforcement responses to trafficking in persons: challenges and emerging good practice. *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice* no 358. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Putt J 2007. Human trafficking to Australia: a research challenge. *Trends and issues in criminal justice* no 338. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Choo K K R and Smith R G 2007. Criminal exploitation of online systems by organised crime groups in Broadhurst R and Ganapathy N (eds) *Organised Crime in Asia: Governance and Accountability* Symposium Proceedings pp. 152-74. Singapore: National University of Singapore and Brisbane: Queensland University of Technology.
- McCusker R 2006. Transnational crime in the Pacific Islands: real or apparent danger? *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice* no 308. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Smith R G 2004. Impediments to the successful investigation of transnational high tech crime *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice* no 282. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Cahill R and Marshall Peter 2004. The worldwide fight against transnational organised crime. *Australia technical and background paper* no 9. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.

*Money Laundering*

- Australian Institute of Criminology 2009. Charges and offences of money laundering. *Transnational crime brief* no 4. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Choo, K K R 2008. Money laundering risks in prepaid cards. *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice* no 363. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

- Australian Institute of Criminology 2008. Confiscation of the proceeds of crime: federal overview 2008. *Transnational crime brief* no 1. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- McCusker R 2005. Underground banking: legitimate remittance network or money laundering system. *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice* no 300. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.

#### *Fraud and electronic crime*

- Richards K 2009. *The Australian business assessment of computer user security (ABACUS): a national survey*. Research and public policy series no. 102. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology
- Choo K K R 2009. *On line child grooming: a literature review on the misuse of social networking sites for grooming children for sexual offences*. Research and public policy series no 103. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Challis G 2009. The Australian business assessment of computer user security (ABACUS) survey: methodology report. *Technical and background paper* no 32. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Urbas G and Choo K K R 2008. Resource materials on technology-enabled crime. *Technical and background paper* no 28. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Australian Institute of Criminology 2008. New methods of transferring value electronically *High tech crime brief* no 14. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Choo K K R & Smith R G 2008. Criminal Exploitation of Online Systems by Organised Crime Groups. *Asian journal of criminology* vol 2 no 2: 37–59
- Choo K K R, Smith, R G. and McCusker R. 2007. *Future directions in technology-enabled crime: 2007-09*. Research and public policy series no 78. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology
- Australian Institute of Criminology 2007. The risk of criminal exploitation of on line auctions *High tech crime brief* no 16. Canberra; Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Smith R G, Grabosky P N and Urbas G F 2004. *Cyber Criminals on Trial*, pp. 1-243, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Australian Institute of Criminology and Pricewaterhouse Coopers 2003. *Serious Fraud in Australia and New Zealand* Research and public policy series no 48. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.