

**AUSTRALIAN CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE COMMISSION**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Joint Committee on the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity  
Inquiry into the Integrity of Australia's border arrangements

11 September 2020

**Subject: Drug Seizures since 2015**

**Asked by:** Tony Zappia

**Question:**

**Mr Zappia:** I have one question, and it applies to both the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and the Australian Federal Police. Are both agencies familiar with the report on Operation Angove by the ACLEI commissioner? If so, can they advise the committee whether Home Affairs had in turn contacted both the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and the Australian Federal Police prior to putting in place the arrangement that is referred to between Home Affairs and Crown? If so, were they comfortable with that arrangement, and did they in any way participate in that arrangement? I'm happy for the questions to be taken on notice if need be.

**Mr Phelan:** I haven't read the final report. I know it only came out the last two days.

**Mr ZAPPIA:** That's right.

**Mr Phelan:** But certainly the ACIC, as you will have seen from the media articles, had a fair bit to do with investigations around the junket operators within Crown casino. That was the extent of our knowledge—putting together most of the intelligence post fact, not beforehand.

**Mr ZAPPIA:** My question goes specifically to the arrangement. Were you consulted about it? Did you approve of it? And were you in any way included in that arrangement?

**Mr Phelan:** I'll have to take that on notice, because it pre-dates me, Mr Zappia.

**Mr ZAPPIA:** Fair enough.

**Mr Phelan:** My inclination is no, but I'll take that on notice.

**Mr ZAPPIA:** And I guess the same applies to the Australian Federal Police.

**Ms Drennan:** Yes, that's right. I wouldn't like to mislead you, so we'll need to take the question on notice.

**Mr ZAPPIA:** Thank you.

**Answer:**

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) is familiar with the Integrity Commissioner's report on Operation Angove.

The ACIC is not aware of any contact from the Department of Home Affairs regarding the arrangement that is referred to in the report.