

7 November 2014

Senator Penny Wright
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I am writing to you, in your capacity as the Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee to clarify the responses made by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) before the Committee on 31 October 2014 in relation to questions asked by yourself.

In your line of questioning, you sought advice from the AFP about whether there was a nationwide campaign that led to the increase in firearms seizures across Australia. The response provided by the AFP was an operation sponsored by all the State and Territory Commissioners through the Australian New Zealand Policy Advisory Agency known as Operation Unite.

Operation Unite is in fact, an operation designed to raise awareness of the toll caused by excessive alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour. The correct operation I was seeking to reference was in fact operation Unification. The latter is a joint initiative of all State and Territory Police aimed at focusing on illicit firearms, including those in the possession of criminals or suspected of being used for the purpose of criminal activity.

As such, I am seeking a correction to my response made on page 73 of the Proof Committee Hansard dated Friday 31 October 2014, to reflect the correct name of the Operation, that is Operation Unification not Unite.

Background information pertaining to operation Unification is attached and if you have any questions in relation to this matter,

Yours faithfully

Jason Cresswell
Performing the duties of
National Manager Policy & Governance