

## Serious and organised crime relating to the financial sector

The following chronology includes major events concerning serious and organised crime relating to the financial sector in Australia, including money laundering and identity fraud, from 1973 to 2014. It includes Commonwealth legislation, Parliamentary Committee inquiries, national entities established to address crime and corruption, and key international conventions and organisations.

Date	Event	Legislation / Outcome
1973	The <a href="#">Australian Institute of Criminology</a> (AIC) was established as Australia's national research and knowledge centre on crime and justice.	<a href="#">Criminology Research Act 1971</a>
1973-1974	The Royal Commission of Inquiry in respect of certain matters relating to allegations of organised crime in clubs (Moffitt Royal Commission) was the first Royal Commission to investigate the extent of organised crime in NSW. Justice Moffitt identified links between the American mafia and Sydney criminals and found there was a real danger that organised crime from overseas would infiltrate Australia.	<p>In his 1985 book <a href="#">A Quarter to Midnight</a>, Moffitt states that, apart from a State Crime Intelligence Unit being established, many recommendations of his Special Commission of Inquiry were not implemented.</p> <p>The <i>Drug Trafficking (Civil Proceedings) Act 1990</i> (NSW) was a proceeds of crime-type legislation passed in response to Moffitt's recommendations, as stated by the Premier in the <a href="#">NSW Legislative Assembly</a>.</p>
1974	The <a href="#">Basel Committee on Banking Supervision</a> (Basel Committee) was established by the Group of 10 countries to promote global banking supervisory standards. The Basel Committee formulates and promotes global banking supervisory standards and practices.	<p>The Basel Committee has issued a number of papers on money laundering and terrorism financing, including the <a href="#">Prevention of Criminal Use of the Banking System for the Purpose of Money Laundering</a> in 1988.</p> <p>Australia <a href="#">joined</a> the Basel Committee in 2009.</p>
1974	The Senate Select Committee on Securities and Exchange tabled the report <a href="#">Australian Securities Markets and Their Regulation</a> .	<p>The Report recommended a national body, the Australian Securities Commission, be introduced (Chapter 16). The Australian Securities Commission was introduced by the <a href="#">Securities Industry Act 1980</a>. Initially it was implemented by various states' corresponding laws. The <a href="#">Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001</a> later instituted a national regime.</p>

1977-1979	The Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking (Woodward Royal Commission) investigated links between the Mafia and NSW Police and the disappearance of anti-marijuana campaigner Donald Mackay. Justice Woodward reported that Mackay was murdered by a 'hit man' on behalf of the Griffith cell of <i>N'Dranghita</i> (The Honoured Society).	The Commission revealed the power and influence of the Calabrian mafia in Australia, which was involved with the cultivation and distribution of marijuana, money laundering, intimidation and other illicit activities.
1980-1984	The Royal Commission on the Activities of the Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union (Costigan Royal Commission) was established by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments to investigate criminal activities associated with the Painters and Dockers Union, and led to a wide-ranging investigation of organised crime.	The Costigan Commission highlighted the influence of criminals in the illegal SP bookmaking industry, identified waterfront insurance frauds known as 'bottom of the harbour schemes', and revealed a major drug smuggling ring based in Queensland.  The <a href="#">Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988</a> represents a direct response to the Costigan Royal Commission and the Stewart Royal Commission of Inquiry into Drug Trafficking (1981-1983).
1981	The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI) was established in Canberra (now superseded by the Australian Crime Commission).	The ABCI's role was to provide facilities for the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of criminal intelligence, in order to provide such information to Commonwealth, State and Territory police. Its special intelligence interests included the financial interests of criminals and criminal organisations, fraudulent dealings in shares or securities and company fraud, as well as corruption in public life.
1983	A National Crimes Commission Conference, attended by representatives of Commonwealth, state and territory governments, police, the legal profession, civil liberties organisations and royal commissioners was held at Parliament House.	The Conference heard the proposals of various models for a National Crime Commission, which many had called for adoption. It was noted that ad hoc royal commissions may not be enough. Discussion of the eventual body taking up the ABCI's functions was also canvassed.
1984	The National Crime Authority (NCA) was established to lead a national law enforcement response to organised crime. It was created to avoid fragmentation of effort and to ensure co-ordination	<a href="#">National Crime Authority Act 1984</a> Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Crime Authority, <i>Third Evaluation of the National Crime</i>

	<p>and continuity in the fight against organised crime. The NCA was superseded by the <a href="#">Australian Crime Commission</a> (ACC) in 2003.</p>	<p><i>Authority</i>, April 1988.</p>
1987	<p>The Australian Government first released its fraud control policy in 1987.</p> <p>The revised version of the <a href="#">Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines</a> was released in 2011. The guidelines establish the policy framework and the Government's expectations for effective fraud control for all agencies and their employees and contractors.</p>	<p><a href="#">Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</a> (Superseded)</p> <p><a href="#">Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1987</a> (Superseded)</p> <p>The <a href="#">Public Governance Performance and Accountability Act 2013</a> (PGPS Act) is the key legislation underpinning the Australian Government's financial framework.</p> <p>The PGPA Act, <a href="#">Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014</a>, and other policies and guidance set out the regulatory framework for the proper use and management of public resources by Commonwealth entities.</p>
1987	<p>Ground-breaking Proceeds of Crime legislation was introduced to attack the profit motive of organised crime.</p> <p>The <i>Proceeds of Crime Act 1987</i> applies to proceedings that were commenced before 1 January 2003.</p>	<p><a href="#">Proceeds of Crime Act 1987</a></p> <p>A <a href="#">Review of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1987</a> by the Australian Law Reform Commission (published in 1999) found that the legislation had become largely ineffective. This led the <a href="#">Proceeds of Crime Act 2002</a>.</p>
1987	<p><i>The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1987</i> enables the Commonwealth to request assistance from any country and receive a request for assistance from another country. This assistance is used in the investigation and prosecution of transnational crime, including proceeds of crime and money laundering.</p>	<p><a href="#">Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1987</a></p> <p>This process is assisted by bilateral mutual assistance treaties and a number of multilateral conventions that contain mutual assistance obligations.</p>
1988	<p>The <a href="#">Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters</a> was developed jointly by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Council of Europe in 1988 and amended by Protocol in 2010.</p>	<p>The Convention is the most comprehensive multilateral instrument available for all forms of tax cooperation to tackle tax evasion and avoidance, a top priority for all countries.</p>

1988	<p>The <a href="#">United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances</a> requires signatories to criminalise money laundering relating to the trafficking of drugs and enables international cooperation in investigations and prosecutions. This Convention forms part of the international effort to combat drug trafficking by targeting the financial power of drug cartels to dispose of the proceeds of crimes through the global financial system.</p>	<p>Australia ratified this Convention in 1990 and the treaty entered into force for Australia in 1993.</p> <p>In commissioning the <a href="#">Review of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1987</a>, the Attorney-General identified a need for effective provision for forfeiture of the proceeds of crime in serving Australia's efforts to counter serious crime both inside and outside of Australia. He pointed to Australia's international obligations, particularly under the <a href="#">UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances</a>, the <a href="#">Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime</a> and bilateral treaties dealing with mutual assistance in criminal matters.</p> <p>Part 9.1 of the Commonwealth <a href="#">Criminal Code</a> relating to Serious Drug Offences explicitly implements the Convention's Article 3 obligation to pass creating and selling laws targeting almost all facets of narcotic and psychotropic substances</p>
1988	<p>The <i>Extradition Act 1988</i> enables Australia to seek the return of persons for trial, including those involved in financial crime.</p> <p>This Act replaced the <a href="#">Extradition Act 1903</a>, <a href="#">Extradition (Commonwealth Countries) Act 1966</a> and the <a href="#">Extradition (Foreign States) Act 1966</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">Extradition Act 1988</a></p> <p>The Regulations enable Australia to make and receive extradition requests to and from a State Party to the <i>United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime</i> and the <i>United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children</i> for an offence specified in the Trafficking Protocol.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Anti-People Smuggling and Other Measures Act 2010</a> implemented the first Convention listed above and the <a href="#">Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air</a> to specifically target those receiving financial benefits from people</p>

		smuggling (see the Parliamentary Library's <a href="#">Bills digest</a> ).
1988	The <i>Cash Transaction Reports Act 1988</i> was enacted to combat tax evasion and money laundering. It was renamed the <i>Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988</i> (effective 1992) under provisions of the <i>Cash Transaction Reports Amendment Act 1991</i> .	<a href="#">Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988</a> <a href="#">Cash Transaction Reports Amendment Act 1991</a> .  Australia was at the forefront of nations in introducing measures to counter money laundering.
1989	The <a href="#">Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre</a> (AUSTRAC) was established to protect Australia's financial system and contribute to the administration of justice through countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism. AUSTRAC helps other government agencies act against tax evasion, organised crime, money laundering and welfare fraud.	<a href="#">Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988</a> <a href="#">Financial Transaction Reports Regulations 1990</a> <a href="#">Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006</a>
1989	Australia was a founding member of the <a href="#">Financial Action Task Force</a> (FATF), an inter-governmental body created to promote the effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures to fight money laundering, terrorist financing and other threats to the integrity of the international financial system. FATF is a policy making body that sets the International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation (FATF Standards).	In February 2012, FATF released the revised <a href="#">40 Recommendations</a> which comprise the FATF Standards.  The FATF assesses its members' compliance with the FATF Standards through a 'mutual evaluation' process. It has commenced a mutual evaluation of Australia, with its report due to be released in February 2015.
1989	The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs released the report <a href="#">Fair Shares for All: Insider Trading in Australia</a> .	The <a href="#">Corporations Law Amendment Act 1991</a> , Schedule 4, implemented many of the recommendations of the report and the government's response to the report.
1990	The <a href="#">Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime</a> was adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers in September 1990, and entered into force in 1993.	This Convention entered into force for Australia 1997.
1995	<a href="#">The Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units</a> is an informal network of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) that promotes international cooperation. FIUs are central, national agencies responsible for receiving, analysing and disseminating disclosures of financial information relating to suspected proceeds	The document <a href="#">Principles for Information Exchange between Financial Intelligence Units</a> facilitates international information sharing among members.

	of crime and potential financing of terrorism, such as Australia's AUSTRAC.	
1997	The <a href="#">Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering</a> (APG) is committed to effective implementation and enforcement of internationally accepted standards against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Its functions include participating in, and co-operating with, the international anti-money laundering network (primarily the FATF and other regional anti-money laundering groups). It also coordinates bi-lateral and donor-agency technical assistance and training in the Asia/Pacific region in order to improve compliance by APG members with the global AML/CFT standards.	The APG is hosted by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in Sydney. The AFP provides a permanent Australian co-chair, and AUSTRAC is the head of delegation for Australia at all APG meetings.
1997	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Anti-Bribery Convention established legally binding standards to criminalise bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions. It was the first international anti-corruption instrument focused on the 'supply side' of the bribery transaction.	<p><a href="#">Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.</a></p> <p>The Convention entered into force in Australia in 1999. It has been adopted by the 34 OECD member countries and seven non-member countries.</p> <p>In October 2012, the OECD released its <a href="#">Report on Implementing the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention in Australia.</a> The report found that Australia's enforcement of its foreign bribery laws had been extremely low, with only one case leading to prosecution out of 28 referrals in 13 years. For commentary see the <a href="#">Parliamentary Library Background Note</a> on this subject.</p>
2000	The <a href="#">United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime</a> (the Palermo Convention) was adopted, with a key focus on disrupting the finances of organised crime groups.	The Palermo Convention came into force in Australia in 2004. It is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime.
2000	Twelve global banks formed the <a href="#">Wolfsberg Group</a> to create anti-money laundering guidelines for international private banking.	The Wolfsberg Group has published <a href="#">Anti-Money Laundering Principles for Private Banking</a> and <a href="#">Anti-Money Laundering Principles for Correspondent Banks.</a>
2000	<a href="#">CrimTrac</a> was established under an <a href="#">Inter-Governmental Agreement</a> (IGA) between the Commonwealth and Australia's nine police	In 2006, CrimTrac and all state and territory police commissioners entered into a partnership <a href="#">Memorandum of</a>

	agencies, with a mandate to lead the delivery of national information-sharing services for law enforcement agencies.	<a href="#">Understanding</a> , which supports the IGA. CrimTrac provides services and databases including the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), the National Criminal Investigation DNA Database (NCIDD) and the National Police Reference System (NPRS).
2000	The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Crime Authority commenced its inquiry into <a href="#">The Law Enforcement Implications of New Technology</a> .	The Committee released its <a href="#">report</a> in 2001.
2001	The <i>Cybercrime Act 2001</i> updated Commonwealth computer crimes offences.	The <a href="#">Cybercrime Act 2001</a> introduced new offences into the <a href="#">Criminal Code Act 1995</a> ( <i>Criminal Code</i> ) and also amended the <a href="#">Crimes Act 1914</a> and the <a href="#">Customs Act 1901</a> .
2001	The <a href="#">United Nations International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism</a> , adopted in 2001, requires signatories to criminalise the provision or collection of funds with the intent or knowledge that they be used to conduct terrorist acts.	The Convention came into effect in Australia in 2002.
2002	The <i>Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Act 2002</i> inserted provisions criminalising terrorism financing into the <i>Criminal Code</i> .	<a href="#">The Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Act 2002</a>
2002	The <i>Proceeds of Crime Act 2002</i> provides a scheme to trace, restrain and confiscate money and property comprising the proceeds of crime against the Commonwealth, and, in certain cases, of crime against foreign law. Confiscation action under this Act is action based on prosecution, and civil-based confiscation action.	<a href="#">Proceeds of Crime Act 2002</a> An <a href="#">Independent Review of the Operation of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002</a> was conducted by Tom Sherman AO in 2006. The <a href="#">report</a> on the review identified a number of impediments to the effective operation of the Act. Recommendations included that the Act contain a clear mandate for agencies to pass on information to other agencies.
2003	The <a href="#">Australian Crime Commission</a> (ACC) was established following the 2002 Council of Australian Government Leaders Summit, which agreed that a new national framework was needed to meet the challenges of multi-jurisdictional crime. The ACC was created as a national agency to focus solely on	<a href="#">Australian Crime Commission Act 2002</a> The ACC provides a national response to serious and organised crime in Australia. It has powers to conduct <a href="#">special investigations and special</a>

	<p>uniting the fight against serious and organised crime.</p> <p>The ACC replaced the National Crime Authority, the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and the Office of Strategic Crime Assessments to become Australia's national criminal intelligence and investigation agency.</p>	<p><a href="#">operations</a> where conventional law enforcement methods are unable or unlikely to be effective, including the use of coercive powers.</p>
2003	<p>The <a href="#">United Nations Convention against Corruption</a> (UNCAC) established mechanisms for the prevention and criminalisation of corruption, as well as for international cooperation and asset recovery. Countries agreed to cooperate in fighting corruption, including prevention, investigation and the prosecution of offenders. A <a href="#">Conference of the States Parties to the Convention</a> was established to improve the capacity of and cooperation between States Parties to achieve the objectives of the UNCAC and to promote and review its implementation.</p>	<p>Australia ratified the UNCAC in December 2005 and has been an active participant in the <a href="#">Conference of the State Parties to the Convention</a>.</p> <p>Countries are bound by the Convention to provide legal assistance in gathering and transferring evidence for use in court to extradite offenders. They are also required to undertake measures to support the tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of corruption.</p> <p>A UN review of Australia's compliance with the UNCAC was published in June 2012. It called on Australia to review its policies and approach to facilitation payments, and to encourage companies to prohibit or discourage the use of such payments.</p>
2003-2004	<p>The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission conducted an <a href="#">Inquiry into recent trends in practices and methods of cybercrime</a>.</p>	<p>The Committee made 11 recommendations in its <a href="#">report</a>, released in 2004. <a href="#">Recommendations</a> included that the Commonwealth Attorney-General liaise with the State and Territory Attorneys-General to ensure that priority is given to the development and implementation of consistent offence and evidence legislation relating to cybercrime.</p>
2005	<p>The Commonwealth Government announced plans to develop a National Identity Security Strategy (NISS) to combat identity theft and the fraudulent use of stolen and assumed identities. The NISS would be developed in partnership with State and Territory Governments, due to the joint responsibility for issuing identity documents.</p>	<p>An <a href="#">Agreement to a National Identity Security Strategy</a> was signed by the Heads of Australia's Commonwealth, state and territory governments in April 2007.</p> <p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a revised <a href="#">National</a></p>



		<p><a href="#">Identity Security Strategy</a> in 2012 to revitalise the national identity security agenda.</p> <p>In 2011, 2012 and 2013 the ACC <a href="#">specified identity crime</a> as one of the key enablers of serious and organised criminal activity. It said the threat from identity crime was likely to increase over the next two years.</p> <p>In 2014 the Attorney-General's Department released the report <a href="#">Identity crime and misuse in Australia. Key findings from the National Identity Crime and Misuse Measurement Framework Pilot.</a></p>
2005-2006	<p>The <a href="#">Inquiry into certain Australian companies in relation to the UN Oil-For-Food Programme</a> (Cole Inquiry) was established to investigate whether Australian companies mentioned in the <a href="#">Volcker Inquiry into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme</a> breached any Federal, State or Territory law.</p>	<p>In 2007, <a href="#">ASIC commenced civil penalty proceedings</a> in the Supreme Court of Victoria against six defendants for alleged breaches of their duties as directors and officers of AWB Limited. Proceedings against two defendants are ongoing.</p> <p>In 2009 the Australian Federal Police ceased its investigation into wheat exporter AWB, as it was unclear if breaching a UN sanction was a criminal offence and a conviction 'was not in the public interest'. The Inquiry resulted in some changes in Australian law regarding dealings with the UN, as well as some strengthening of Australia's anti-bribery laws.</p>
2006	<p>The <i>Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006</i> (AML/CTF Act) and subsequent <i>Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Rules</i> (AML/CTF Rules) aim to implement international obligations relating to the prevention of money laundering and the financing of terrorism by imposing obligations on the financial sector, gambling sector, remittance services, bullion dealers and other professionals or businesses that provide designated services. This includes collecting and verifying information about a customer's identity. Reporting entities must also give AUSTRAC reports about suspicious matters, and develop and</p>	<p><a href="#">Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 2006</a></p> <p><a href="#">Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Rules Instrument 2007 (No. 1)</a></p>

	comply with an anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing program.	
2006	<p>Key law enforcement agencies collaborated under <a href="#">Project Wickenby</a> to protect the integrity of Australia's financial and regulatory systems by preventing people from promoting or participating in the abusive use of secrecy havens.</p> <p>Project Wickenby was designed to strengthen national law enforcement and Australian Taxation Office (ATO) compliance activities against tax fraud. It is led by the ATO and includes ACC, AFP, ASIC, AGD, AUSTRAC, Australian Government Solicitor and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.</p>	<p>While the primary focus of the task force is tax avoidance, money laundering is also an important facet of the taskforce's work, such as the <a href="#">dismantling of a \$100 million money laundering scheme</a>.</p> <p>Project Wickenby involves unprecedented Australian and international inter-agency cooperation to gather intelligence, investigate and prosecute abusive secrecy haven arrangements.</p>
2007	<p>The <a href="#">Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity</a> (ACLEI) was created to prevent, detect, and investigate serious and systemic corruption issues in the Australian Crime Commission and the Australian Federal Police. In 2011, ACLEI's jurisdiction was expanded to cover the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to respond to emerging corruption risks. In 2013 ACLEI's oversight was extended to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Biosecurity Staff, AUSTRAC and CrimTrac. These expansions were recommended by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ACLEI.</p>	<p><a href="#">Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006</a></p> <p>In March 2014, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ACLEI initiated an <a href="#">inquiry into the jurisdiction ACLEI</a>.</p>
2007	<p>The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission reported in September 2007 on its <a href="#">Inquiry into the future impact of serious and organised crime on Australian society</a>.</p>	<p>The Committee's <a href="#">Report</a> made 22 recommendations, including that Commonwealth, state and territory governments enact complementary and harmonised legislation for dealing with the activities of organised crime as a matter of priority.</p>
2007	<p>The <a href="#">United Nations Global Programme Against Money Laundering</a> of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was established to assist members to comply with UN Conventions regarding money laundering.</p>	
2009	<p>The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission released its report on the <a href="#">Inquiry into the legislative arrangements to outlaw serious and organised crime groups</a> in August 2009.</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Committee's Report</a> concluded that the most effective way of targeting and disrupting serious and organised crime was to pursue the financial gain, finding that criminal assets recovery laws are an effective</p>

		<p>way of combating such crime. There were seven recommendations, including that the ACC work with law enforcement partners to enhance data collection on criminal groups and criminal group membership, and that the Commonwealth government examine a more integrated model of asset recovery in which investigation and prosecution are undertaken within one agency, such as the ACC.</p>
2009	<p>The <a href="#">Commonwealth Organised Crime Strategic Framework</a> was released by the Attorney-General and the Minister for Home Affairs. The Framework identifies the main threats from organised crime and co-ordinates a whole of government response to address those threats.</p>	<p>Key elements of the framework are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <a href="#">Organised Crime Threat Assessment</a></li> <li>2) <a href="#">Organised Crime Response Plan</a>. Priorities of the Plan include the organised crime risks of money laundering and identity crime.</li> <li>3) Multi-agency responses.</li> </ol>
2010	<p>The Commonwealth government introduced a regime to target unexplained wealth. The <i>Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Act 2010</i> targeted organised criminal activity, including unexplained wealth provisions and enhanced police powers relating to controlled operations, assumed identities and witness identity protection. The Act also allowed for increased access to telecommunications interception for criminal organisation offences.</p>	<p><a href="#">Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Act 2010</a></p> <p>See also the <a href="#">Parliamentary Library's Bills Digest</a> on this legislation.</p>
2010	<p>The multi-agency task force <a href="#">Operation Polaris</a> was commissioned in July 2010 to combat organised crime on the waterfront in NSW.</p>	<p>The March 2012 report on Operation Polaris found that organised criminals were targeting workers on the waterfront and in the cargo supply chain in the public and private sectors, resulting in the subversion of employees and the importation of illicit drugs. The report recommended measures to make it more difficult for organised criminals to operate on the waterfront.</p>
2010	<p>The <a href="#">G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group</a> (ACWG) was established. The ACWG agenda includes: the impact of corruption on economic growth; measures against foreign bribery and solicitation;</p>	

	combating money laundering and recovery of proceeds of corruption; whistleblowers protection; asset disclosure and conflict of interest regulation; and cooperation with private sector and civil society in fighting corruption.	
2010	The OECD adopted a new OECD <a href="#">Recommendation</a> to facilitate cooperation between tax and other law enforcement authorities to combat serious crimes.	<a href="#">Recommendation of the Council to Facilitate Co-operation between Tax and Other Law Enforcement Authorities to Combat Serious Crimes</a>
2011	The <a href="#">Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce</a> was established within the Serious and Organised Crime Unit of the Australian Federal Police.	The multi-agency taskforce provides a more coordinated and integrated approach to identifying and removing the profits derived from organised criminal activity.
2011	The ACC-led <a href="#">Task Force Galilee</a> was created to respond to the threat of serious and organised investment fraud.	In 2012 the Australian Crime Commission and the Australian Institute of Criminology released a report on <a href="#">Serious and Organised Investment Fraud in Australia</a> .
2011	The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions laid the first foreign bribery charges under Australian law against Securrency International Pty Ltd and Note Printing Australia Limited (NPA), and nine people associated with the companies. Securrency was 50% owned by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), which sold its stake in 2013. NPA is a wholly owned <a href="#">subsidiary</a> of the RBA. It is alleged that millions of dollars in bribes were offered to government officials through agents in Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia to secure bank-note supply contracts.	The former CFO and company secretary of Securrency was <a href="#">sentenced</a> in 2012 after entering a plea of guilty to a charge of false accounting. Further charges are expected.
2011	The first Annual High-Level <a href="#">Anti-Corruption Conference for G20 Governments</a> and Business was held in Paris, where G20 Leaders committed to join forces in the fight against corruption.	The <a href="#">G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2013-2014 Action Plan</a> , endorsed by G20 leaders in 2012, commits G20 members to 'strengthen international cooperation to assist our own and others' efforts to tackle corruption and bribery and facilitate asset recovery'.  The <a href="#">G20 Asset Recovery Guides</a> provide guidance on how any country can request the assistance of G20 countries in the identification, seizure and return of proceeds of corruption.

2011	The Commonwealth Government announced the development of what was intended to become the first National Anti-Corruption Plan. However, prior to the publication of the Plan, the 43rd Parliament was prorogued.	The Attorney-General's Department had released a <a href="#">discussion paper</a> on the Plan in 2011, recognising the need to ensure better coordination of Australia's anti-corruption efforts and to effectively address emerging corruption risks. Public consultation groups were held in 2011 and 2012.
2012	The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement released its report in March 2012 on the <a href="#">Inquiry into Commonwealth unexplained wealth legislation and arrangements</a> .	<p>The Committee's <a href="#">Report</a> concluded that nationally consistent unexplained wealth provisions would be a powerful new tool supporting the national response to serious and organised crime. Recommendations included that the Commonwealth government create and commit to a plan for the development of national unexplained wealth scheme.</p> <p>A 2014 <a href="#">Law, Crime and Community Safety Council Communiqué</a> noted that Commonwealth, state and territory Ministers continue to develop a national cooperative scheme on unexplained wealth and to enhance cooperative national efforts to utilise unexplained wealth laws to disrupt and undermine serious and organised crime in Australia.</p>
2012	The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement's <a href="#">Inquiry into the gathering and use of Criminal Intelligence</a> examined the capacity of the ACC and AFP to gather, use and share criminal intelligence to reduce the threat and impact of serious and organised crime.	The Committee's <a href="#">Report</a> was released in May 2013. It recognised that a national mechanism for the sharing of criminal intelligence was fundamentally important, noting that all submitters to the inquiry supported structural overhaul to the way criminal intelligence is shared and disseminated in Australia.
2013	The AFP established the <a href="#">Fraud and Anti-Corruption (FAC) business area</a> under the Crime Program in February 2013 to enhance the AFP's response to serious and complex fraud against the Commonwealth, corruption by Australian Government employees, foreign bribery and complex identity crime involving the manufacture and abuse of credentials.	The AFP is working with partner agencies to strengthen the Commonwealth's capability to respond to fraud and corruption, including working alongside those agencies in undertaking or assisting with investigations.

2013	The AFP, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and City of London Police's Overseas Anti-Corruption Unit created the <a href="#">International Foreign Bribery Taskforce (IFBT)</a> as part of a new trans-border agreement to combat foreign bribery.	Specialist investigators will share knowledge, skills, methodologies and case studies to strengthen investigations into foreign bribery crimes.
2013	<a href="#">A Statutory Review of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006</a> by the Attorney-General's Department commenced.	Section 251 of the AML/CTF Act requires a review of the operation of the Act to commence before 13 December 2013, and a report of the review to be prepared and tabled in Parliament.
2014	On 26 June, the Senate referred the <a href="#">Work undertaken by the Australian Federal Police's Oil for Food Taskforce</a> to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report.	The Committee is due to report on 26 November 2014.
2014	In July 2014 the AFP announced the creation of a multi-agency <a href="#">Fraud and Anti-Corruption Centre</a> , hosted by its Fraud and Anti-Corruption (FAC) business area.	The FAC is focused on strengthening law enforcement capability to respond to serious and complex fraud, foreign bribery, corruption by Australian Government employees and complex identity crime.

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