

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES
The Impact of Illicit Drug Use on Families

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Submission No:6

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The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family & Human Services Inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families, at its public hearing on Wednesday 14 February 2007, asked Commissioner Keelty what was the success rate of the Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative in the Australian Capital Territory?

The response to the enquiry is as follows:

- The ACT Policing Early Intervention and Diversion program is a partnership between health, police and non-government agencies adhering to the principles of the National Drug Strategy.
- It is designed to provide early incentives for drug offenders to deal with their drug problems. The people who benefit most from this program are young offenders who have no prior involvement with the courts.
- Drug offenders who qualify for the program have the opportunity of being referred to a variety of education and treatment options.
- When considering diversion as an option, police will also consider public interest, the interests of the individual involved, and the interests of his/her immediate family. The diversion will not be available where a violent crime has been committed. The offender must consent to the diversion.
- In 2005-2006, 43 people were referred to drug diversion programs by ACT Policing. This was an increase of 7.5% on 2004-2005 referrals (40).
- The success rate of this program is difficult to quantify for a number of reasons, for example, a person who has participated in the program may reoffend in another jurisdiction, which will not necessarily come to the attention of ACT Policing.
- The Australian Institute of Criminology is currently conducting a national evaluation of the Illicit Drug Diversion Programs in all jurisdictions, which will provide an informed summary of these programs across Australia.

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The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family & Human Services Inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families, at its public hearing on Wednesday 14 February 2007, asked Commissioner Keelty to nominate the principal national drugs policy organisations and which groups he participated in.

The response to the enquiry is as follows:

List of Drugs Policy Organisations and Commissioner Keelty's Relationship

MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON DRUG STRATEGY (MCDS)

The Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) oversees and coordinates Australian Government and State and Territory action on the *National Drug Strategy 2004-2009* (the Strategy) and drug-related matters. It was established in April 1985 by the Special Premiers' Conference on Drugs. MCDS is the peak policy and decision making body on licit and illicit drugs in Australia.

The membership of the MCDS comprises relevant law enforcement (police/justice) and health Ministers from the Australian Government, each State and Territory and the Australian Government Minister for Education, Science and Training. The New Zealand Minister of Health and Minister of Police are observers at the MCDS. Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner Keelty has attended on occasion in an advisory capacity.

➤ **Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD)**

IGCD is responsible for implementing and progressing the National Drug Strategies priority areas and outcomes, and is the principal advisory body to the MCDS. IGCD facilitates the development and coordination of policy and joint action to reduce drug-related harm within Australia. The IGCD is accountable to MCDS for its performance and outcomes.

IGCD's membership consists of senior officers who represent health and law enforcement agencies in each Australian jurisdiction and New Zealand, as well as representatives from the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training and the Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

➤ **National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF)**

The Fund is administered by the NDLERF Board of Management which comprises representatives from law enforcement agencies from all States and Territories including AFP; the Australian Customs Service; Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department; National Drug Strategy Unit of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing; and a health agency from one of the States or Territories (Northern Territory as at 14 February 2007).

The NDLERF Board of Management reviews project applications and tender submissions and makes recommendations to the Department of Health and Ageing for funding approval.

AUSTRALASIAN POLICE MINISTERS' COUNCIL (APMC)

The APMC was established in 1980 to promote a co-ordinated national response to law enforcement issues and to maximise the efficient use of police resources. The APMC broadened its role in May 1986 to include the co-ordination of the national attack on organised crime. APMC implemented initiatives to increase its capacity to establish and implement national law enforcement policy. More recently including a wide range of national law enforcement policy development and implementation activities.

The Council comprises the Ministers responsible for police from the Federal Government, each of the states and territories and New Zealand. Commissioner Keelty attends in an advisory capacity.

➤ **Australasian Police Ministers' Council Senior Officers' Group (APMC-SOG)**

A standing committee of officials, the senior Officers Group (SOG) meets at least twice each year prior to the APMC meetings. The SOG is comprised of the Police Commissioners of the AFP, Australian states and territories, New Zealand, Secretary of the Victorian Department of Justice, Director-General of the NSW Ministry of Police, Chief Executive of the ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety, ACT Chief Police Officer and the Deputy Secretary, National Security and Criminal Justice Group, Australian Attorney-General's Department. The AFP is represented by Commissioner Keelty.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUGS (ANCD)

The ANCD is the principal advisory body to Government on drug policy and plays a critical role in ensuring the voice of the community is heard in relation to drug related policies and strategies.

Membership of the ANCD includes people with a wide range of experience and expertise on various aspects of drug policy, such as treatment, rehabilitation, education, family counselling, law enforcement, research working in community organisations. Commissioner Keelty is the Co-Deputy Chair.

POLICE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE (PCC)

The Conference of Commissioners of Police of Australasia and the South West Pacific Region (abbreviated to the Police Commissioners' Conference) addresses contemporary international and domestic law enforcement issues.

Membership of the PCC comprises all Australian Police Commissioners and the New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea Police Commissioners. Commissioner Keelty represents the AFP.

➤ **Commissioners' Drugs Committee (CDC)**

Commissioner Keelty is Deputy Chair of the CDC which is a sub-committee of the Police Commissioners' Conference focusing on operational community drug law enforcement issues.

AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION BOARD (ACC BOARD)

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) is a Commonwealth statutory body working nationally with federal, state and territory agencies to counter serious and organised crime by bringing together all arms of intelligence gathering and law.

ACC Board membership includes the eight state and territory Police Commissioners, five Commonwealth agency heads including the Director General of Security, Chair of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, CEO of Customs, Secretary of the Attorney- General's Department and the ACC CEO as a non-voting member. Commissioner Keelty is Chair of the Board of the ACC.