



Bill referred for Committee scrutiny: *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Powers and Offences) Bill 2011*

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs is conducting an inquiry into the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Powers and Offences) Bill 2011*. The Bill will amend a number of Acts with the intention of assisting in the effective investigation and enforcement of Commonwealth laws. The Explanatory Memorandum stated that the Bill also incorporates a range of additional safeguards applicable in those investigations. The purposes of the schedules included in the Bill are as follows:

Schedule 1: to increase transparency and reduce complexity contained in provisions governing the collection and use of DNA forensic material.

Schedule 2: to improve how the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) can share and disclose information and material in its possession to combat serious and organised crime.

Schedule 3: to introduce rules that are required to better govern the use, sharing and retention of things seized under the ACC Act.

Schedule 4: to enhance the ability of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity to investigate corruption.

Schedule 5: to combat the emergence and importation of illicit substances including Ketamine and Methcathinone.

Schedule 6: to allow a court to restrict publication of certain matters to prevent prejudice to the administration of justice, and to enable Australian Federal Police employees and secondees with forensic skills to become 'authorised officers' in crime investigations.

Schedule 7: to ensure that all parole decisions are able to be made at the Attorney-General's discretion and that adequate parole, licence and supervision periods are applied to federal offenders as required.

Schedule 8: to enable State and Territory fine enforcement agencies to take non-judicial enforcement action to enforce Commonwealth fines without first obtaining a court order.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make submissions to the inquiry by **Monday, 9 January 2012**. Further information about the inquiry, including the Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum can be found at the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/spla

For media comment, contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (02) 6277 4542 or 0408 883 312. **For further information about the inquiry**, contact the Secretariat on 02 62772358 or go to: www.aph.gov.au/spla