



## Federal Police whistleblower procedures under parliamentary scrutiny Canberra – 23 October

Representatives from the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) will appear before the House Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee tomorrow to discuss procedures for law enforcement officers who speak out about wrongdoing in the workplace.

Members of the AFP have a mandatory requirement to report misconduct of their colleagues where it is suspected that professional standards and values have been breached. Avenues for reporting include registering the breach on the complaint recording and management system or notifying a member of the AFP Confident Network.

Police corruption is considered the most serious form of misconduct and, under the *Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006*, must be referred to the Integrity Commissioner. The role of the Integrity Commissioner is to scrutinise law enforcement agencies and investigate allegations of corruption.

In its submission to the Committee's inquiry on whistleblower protections ACLEI described the AFP as 'an agency at the forefront of most aspects of internal corruption control' funding 'the internal investigation of misconduct allegations with over \$11m annually'.

The Committee Chair, Mark Dreyfus QC MP said, "The Australian Federal Police is reputed to have a well developed internal whistleblower professional reporting scheme. The Committee is interested to learn more about how the scheme operates in practice and how it could inform similar processes in the broader Australian Government public sector".

"The AFP's role in investigating whistleblower reports concerning corruption and the unauthorised disclosure of Commonwealth information is also an issue of interest to the Committee" Mr Dreyfus said.

### Details of the hearing:

Date: Thursday 23 October 2008  
Time: 9:30 – 10:30am  
Location: Committee Room 1R1, 1st floor, Parliament House, Canberra  
Witnesses: Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (Submission 13)  
Australian Federal Police (Submission 38)

Please note: The Committee will be conducting a private meeting prior to the commencement of the public hearing. The public will be admitted at the conclusion of the private meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing or to listen to the discussions which will be broadcast on **FM 98.3** in Parliament House, and via webcast on the APH website: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

### For interview:

Contact the Committee Chair, Mr Mark Dreyfus QC, MP on (02) 6277 4305 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (03) 9769 1955.

Or Mr Dreyfus' media adviser, Tim Lisle-Williams on 0431 178 280.

**For background information**, including the full terms of reference, please visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/laca](http://www.aph.gov.au/laca) or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.