

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
CRIMTRAC AGENCY

Question No. 111

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 23 February 2009:

The last inquiry into organised crime made recommendations that CrimTrac be developed as the national criminal investigation database hub serving the ACC, AFP and state and territory police forces, and expand current datasets to include (but not limited to): the national DNA database (NCIDD), national fingerprint database (NAFIS), national sex offender register (ANCOR), the CrimTrac Police Referencing System (CPRS), single national case management for Australia's police forces, guns and explosives licence holders, aviation and maritime security identification card holders (ASIC/MSIC), and chemical and fertiliser purchases. The PFA sent a list of policy recommendations to the Government prior to the 2007 Election, who in turn gave their support for the use of the CrimTrac as the central repository for law enforcement data collection.

- a) How much would it cost to develop CrimTrac in this way?
- b) How important/useful would it be to have this information on the CrimTrac database?
- c) Has the Government begun making the necessary changes to streamline access to this information, as promised?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) The various changes required to the National Police Reference System (NPRS, formerly CPRS) to encompass the inquiry's recommendations are at the planning stage and formal costings have yet to be made.
- b) The expansion of NPRS to include the recommended data sets is likely to increase the detection of offenders, assist in the execution of interstate warrants, provide a safer working environment for police, improve the identification of missing persons, unknown deceased and persons of interest and reduce costs through the aggregation of CrimTrac systems.
- c) Enhancements to the NPRS rely upon the base system being fully rolled out to police jurisdictions. The final jurisdictions are scheduled to begin providing information to the NPRS in April, allowing further development to commence. Proposals for further developments to the NPRS will require approval by the CrimTrac Board of Management.

A senior officer has recently been appointed to undertake a feasibility study for National Case Management. A proposal to undertake this feasibility study is being presented to the CrimTrac Board of Management at its March 2009 meeting.