

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
CRIMTRAC

Question No. 22

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

What is the objective underlying the intended development of a National Facial Recognition business case?

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

A national facial recognition system will provide all jurisdictions with access to images of persons of interest within the National Police Reference System (NPRS).

In 2007, the Missing Persons Scoping Study, undertaken by CrimTrac, made numerous recommendations to improve Australia's missing persons capability. One of these recommendations included a national facial recognition capability, and this recommendation was endorsed by the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management - Police (MCPEMP) in late 2007.

The initiation phase, including the business case, is scheduled to start in September 2008. It will identify detailed requirements and implementation costs for each of the jurisdictions. It is anticipated the following will be examined:

1. Financial, technical or resource impact on jurisdictions.
2. The adoption of a minimum standard for facial image capture.
3. Image quality within NPRS and the improvements required to enable their use in FR.
4. Changes to NPRS to supply photos or templates to the FR system.
5. Legislative issues.
6. A privacy impact assessment.
7. The effort and cost effectiveness of digitising and loading (back-capture) of existing non-digital images (wet film) within the jurisdictions.
8. Missing persons' requirements.
9. An automated interface and/or compatibility to allow connectivity with existing jurisdictional facial recognition systems, such as I-Face, PhotoTrac and the AFP's system.
10. The provision of the following capabilities for those jurisdictions without an existing facial recognition system:
 - One to one, one to many, and many to many matching of any available national image
 - Continuous checking of latent photographs
 - Witness viewing – whether it is required
 - Photoboard creation- whether it is required
 - Generation of reports
 - Generation of alerts

- Auditing

11. The procurement, support and maintenance.

The initiation phase is scheduled for completion in February 2009, for a decision by the CrimTrac Board of Management in March 2009