

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
CRIMTRAC

Question No. 106

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2009:

In relation to the Australian National Child Offender Register, what steps is the Government taking to ensure known offenders against children are recognised upon entry to Australia and what steps are being taken to ensure sharing across jurisdictions is occurring?

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

The Australian National Child Offender Register (ANCOR) was created in 2004 to provide cross jurisdictional information to police services around Australia on persons convicted of an offence against children. State and Territory legislation provides for the registration of offenders on ANCOR, including Commonwealth offences. The information on ANCOR is only accessible to ANCOR registrars, local managers and case managers and designated members of the Australian Federal Police Operations Coordination Centre (AOCC).

Information about an offender in one jurisdiction can be shared with or transferred to another jurisdiction, should the person travel interstate or move permanently interstate.

When an offender is registered on ANCOR, they may also be placed on the international traveller watchlist by the AFP. If the offender travels, AFP will notify the jurisdiction responsible for that registered offender.

The AFP (High Tech Crime Unit) can place a foreign person convicted of an offence in another country on the watchlist. The AFP will then endeavour to obtain information about the foreign person from the relevant authorities in the foreign country and inform the relevant jurisdiction. Some jurisdictions' legislation, such as the ACT Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Act 2005 allows for a convicted foreign child offender to be prescribed as a corresponding offender with reporting requirements under the Act.

While it is not mandatory, the United States, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand will sometimes notify the AFP in cases when a foreign person convicted of an offence is travelling to Australia.