



**OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Senator Trish Crossin  
Chair  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Senator Crossin

I am writing to advise you of a need to correct the public record in relation to two recent questions directed to myself at the Estimates hearing of 25 May 2011.

The first correction relates to an interchange between myself and Senator Trood (Senate Hansard, Wednesday, 25 May 2001, pp 50-53) in relation to legal advice provided to the ACC by the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) concerning the application of Commonwealth Controlled Operations legislation. Senator Trood queried whether the ACC had received the legal advice which was the subject of discussion. I confirmed that this was the case. In later discussion I advised that I had shared this advice with the Ombudsman.

I have since been informed that at the time of making this statement, the Ombudsman had not yet received a copy of this advice. The ACC received the final advice just prior to the Estimates hearings and while instructions to share this with the Ombudsman had been given, this had not yet been actioned. I therefore wish to note a formal correction to my evidence at Hansard and confirm that as at 25 May 2011 the ACC had received advice from the AGS in relation to the application of Commonwealth Controlled Operations legislation and that it was my understanding that it had been shared with the Commonwealth Ombudsman. I can confirm that this advice has now been received by the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

A secondary matter relates to an exchange with Senator Furner regarding Mexican cartels and related deaths (Senate Hansard, Wednesday, 25 May 2001, p 54). I noted in evidence that I believed that the latest death count since 2006 was 55,000. I wish to revise this estimate to approximately 35,000. It is difficult to fully quantify this matter, however recent press articles suggest that the lower figure is more accurate.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please contact my office on

Yours sincerely

John Lawler APM  
Chief Executive Officer  
July 2011

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ACC HEADQUARTERS  
44 Mort Street, Braddon, Canberra, ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6243-6613, Fax: (02) 6243-6679, Internet: [www.crimecommission.gov.au](http://www.crimecommission.gov.au)  
GPO Box 1936, Canberra, ACT 2601

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