

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 59

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

When are staff trained in the use of stun guns?

- a) Who performs the training?
- b) Where is the training undertaken?
- c) What is the cost of the training?

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

Only AFP employees deployed to the Specialist Response and Security Tactical Response Team (SRS) are trained in the use of the Taser X26. Employees must satisfactorily complete the training before they are issued with the Taser device. Mandatory training is subsequently carried out every year in line with current Use of Force recertification.

- a) Training in the use of the Taser X26 (Electrical Incapacitant) is conducted by members of the AFP SRS.
- b) The training is conducted at the AFP Complex at Weston, Canberra, ACT.
- c) Apart from salaries for training staff, there is a cost of \$210 per employee trained for the purchase of Taser X26 training cartridges which are deployed during practice scenarios.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 60

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Have the US and Australia reached an agreement in relation to air marshals travelling on flights between Australia and the US?

- a) If yes, when and please provide a copy of the agreement.
- b) If not, why not and when is it expected?

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

An exchange of Diplomatic Notes between Australia and the US occurred on 8 May 2004. Deployments between the two countries have now commenced.

- a) The exchange occurred on 8 May 2004. Disclosure of the Diplomatic Notes would reveal methodology associated with the program. The Government will therefore not be making these Diplomatic Notes public.
- b) Not applicable.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 61

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Regarding the Action Plan to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons, how much of the \$20 million in funding has already been spent? Furthermore, please provide a breakdown of the expenditure of that funding to date.

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

The Attorney-General's Department has responsibility for only a small portion of the \$20 million allocated to the Australian Government's Action Plan to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons.

The Department is responsible for:

- \$15,000 to cover the production of the Action Plan brochure; and
- \$400,000 over four years to develop and deliver a Community Awareness Strategy.

The remaining funding is administered by the Australian Federal Police, AusAID, the Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Health and Ageing, and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

The Department has expended the following amounts to date:

- Action Plan = \$9,944.
- Anti-trafficking Community Awareness Strategy: = \$78,773.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 62

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Has the Department conducted any reports or investigations into the effectiveness of the Plan? If yes, please provide. If not, why not?

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

There has been no formal review because it has not been necessary. The Action Plan has been working well, with considerable success in its first year of implementation.

Examples of the success of the package so far include the implementation of the Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program, managed by the Department of Family and Community Services and delivered by a community provider, Southern Edge Training. It commenced in January 2004 with the introduction of a new, comprehensive visa scheme for trafficking victims. As at 17 January 2005, 30 victims have participated in the programme.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Transnational Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Team (TSETT) has conducted numerous proactive investigations. There are currently five matters before the courts, with a total of 14 offenders facing charges in Australia for sexual servitude and slavery related offences. The AFP's TSETT continues to investigate a number of further cases. Improved co-operation between the AFP and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) is working well. Where DIMIA identifies any indicators of trafficking for sexual servitude or slavery, these cases are immediately referred to the AFP who is responsible for investigating these matters.

The Community Awareness Strategy managed by the Attorney-General's Department is progressing on schedule.

The Minister for Justice and Customs introduced on 8 December 2004 the Criminal Code (Trafficking in Persons) Amendment Bill, with comprehensive new offences to further criminalise trafficking, trafficking in children and debt bondage. Australia will ratify the *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children* once this Bill is passed.

The Interdepartmental Committee and its individual members monitor the operation of the package of measures and communicate regularly to ensure it continues to be delivered effectively.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 63

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

In what way does the draft legislation mentioned (in relation to the aforementioned matter) assist in enhancing Australia's existing slavery, sexual servitude and deceptive recruiting offences?

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

This Criminal Code Amendment (Trafficking in Persons Offences) Bill 2004 (the Bill) was introduced into the Senate on 8 December 2004.

The Bill will amend the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (the Criminal Code) and the *Telecommunications (Interception) Act 1979* (the Telecommunications Interception Act).

An explanation of the impact of the Bill is contained in the Explanatory Memorandum, which has been tabled in the Senate.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.4

Question No. 64

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

How are appointments made to the National Counter-Terrorism Committee? Who is currently serving on the committee? Who is currently chairing the committee? What are the qualifications and experience of people on the committee?

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

The *Agreement on Australia's National Counter-Terrorism Arrangements*, signed by the Prime Minister, premiers and chief ministers on 24 October 2002, states that the National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC) 'will be a high-level national body comprising representatives from the Commonwealth, States and Territories.'

Appointments to the NCTC are made at the discretion of its member agencies. NCTC members are senior representatives of their respective organisations who have management responsibility for one or more aspects of their agencies' role in the national counter-terrorism arrangements. They comprise senior executive service officers (or equivalent) from the following departments and agencies:

- the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department;
- the Protective Security Coordination Centre;
- the Australian Defence Force;
- the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation;
- the Australian Federal Police;
- the Department of Transport and Regional Services;
- Emergency Management Australia;
- the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- the Department of Finance and Administration;
- the Premier's or Chief Minister's department of each State and Territory* (usually at Deputy Secretary level (or equivalent) with responsibilities for the counter-terrorism issues within their jurisdictions); and
- the police service of each State and Territory* (deputy commissioners of police).

The NCTC meets biannually with each meeting co-chaired by a senior Australian Government representative (currently a Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet) and a senior official from the state or territory hosting the meeting.

Senior officers from the New Zealand Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the New Zealand police and security services normally attend these meetings as observers.

Extraordinary meetings of the NCTC may also be held at short notice as required. For example, the committee met via teleconference following the terrorist bombings in Madrid in March and in Jakarta in September of this year.

The current Attorney-General's Department representatives on the NCTC are the: Deputy Secretary, National Security and Criminal Justice Group; Executive Director, Protective Security Coordination Centre; and Director-General, Emergency Management Australia.

* The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is represented on the NCTC by the ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety and the Australian Federal Police (ACT Policing).

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.4

Question No. 65

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Are there any reports available on the work of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee this year? If yes, please provide. If not, why not?

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

The National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC) has met on four occasions this year: on 15 March; 19-20 May; 14 September; and 7-8 December. A communiqué is released by the NCTC at the conclusion of each meeting. (Copies of the four communiqués issued this year are attached.)

The NCTC Secretariat, which resides in the National Security Division of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, produces a summary record of each NCTC meeting. As these are classified documents they are not available.

Under the *Agreement on Australia's National Counter-Terrorism Arrangements*, signed by the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers on 24 October 2002, the NCTC reports annually to the Council of Australian Governments on national counter-terrorism preparedness and capability. These documents are also classified and as such are not available.

NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

15 MARCH 2004

COMMUNIQUE

The National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC) met today via teleconference from Canberra to discuss security arrangements in Australia, including transport security, in light of the terrorist attacks in Madrid on 11 March 2004. Senior transport officials from all jurisdictions also participated in the meeting.

ASIO and ONA provided an update on information regarding the Madrid attack and the current national security environment. The Committee noted that, while there is no known specific threat to Australia, the level of national counter-terrorism alert remains at medium, as it has since 12 September 2001, meaning that a terrorist attack in Australia could occur.

The Committee further noted the significant ongoing work undertaken around Australia to strengthen counter-terrorism preparedness, awareness and response.

The Committee noted intelligence advice that the terrorist threat to Australia comes from Al Qaida and associated groups and that Al Qaida's interest in Australia dates from before September 2001. It further noted that threat levels in the UK and USA had not changed since the Madrid attacks.

The Committee further noted that in the last 12 months there have been terrorist attacks in a number of countries including Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Turkey, the Philippines, Russia and now Spain.

The Office of Transport Security briefed the meeting and jurisdictions exchanged information on transport security. The Committee noted continuing enhancements to transport security across Australia. The biannual meeting of the Heads of Transport Departments is scheduled for later this week. It will discuss, amongst other things, further work on transport security in all sectors, and progression of the National Transport Security Strategy, which is based on international best practice.

In light of the Madrid attacks the NCTC agreed that senior officials from transport and other relevant agencies in all jurisdictions will meet in Sydney within the next two weeks to review measures taken to date and to examine further potential measures that may be required. In particular, discussions will draw on the experience of NSW agencies, which put in place extensive urban transport security arrangements at the time of the 2000 Olympics and subsequently.

The Committee noted advice from jurisdictions that appropriate measures are in place in view of the current threat level and that additional measures can be put in place should that threat level change. There is close cooperation between the Australian Government and all States and Territories in all areas of security, including transport security.

Discussions focused not only on transport security, but also ranged across the broader national counter-terrorism arrangements in place under the National Counter-Terrorism Plan, including preparedness in the health, emergency services and Defence sectors.

The national counter-terrorism arrangements are regularly tested through a programme of national exercises. Recent exercises have specifically tested the transport sector. The first multijurisdictional exercise, *Mercury 04*, will be conducted later this month and will test our national preparedness and response arrangements across a range of contingencies.

The most effective actions are preventative. The Committee noted that a high level of alertness throughout the private and public sectors can provide vital information and is one of the best mechanisms to prevent acts of terrorism. Suspicious behaviour or events should be reported to security authorities. Members of the public should report anything suspicious immediately to the relevant authorities, including through the 24 hour toll free National Security Hotline – 1800 123 400. In the case of emergencies, contact should be made through 000.

National Counter-Terrorism Committee
15 March 2004

Note: The NCTC was established under the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Australia's National Counter-Terrorism Arrangements signed in October 2002 by the Prime Minister and all Premiers and Chief Ministers. The Committee is chaired by a Deputy Secretary from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and comprises Deputy Police Commissioners from all States and Territories and the Australian Federal Police, and senior officials from all Premiers and Chief Ministers Departments and from the following Australian Government agencies: Attorney-General's Department, ASIO, Defence, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Transport and Regional Services, the Department of Health and Ageing and the Department of Finance and Administration.

Further details are available at www.nationalsecurity.gov.au

NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

19 – 20 MAY 2004

COMMUNIQUE

The New Zealand Government hosted the fifth meeting of the Australian National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC) on 19 and 20 May 2004. The meeting was chaired by the Australian Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and was attended by senior representatives from the Australian and State and Territory Governments. New Zealand officials attended the meeting as observers. The NCTC would like to thank the New Zealand Government for extending a welcome to the Committee in Wellington.

The NCTC once again took stock of the national counter-terrorism arrangements against the backdrop of the current security environment. Discussions were informed by briefings from the Office of National Assessments, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Australian Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism. The Committee noted the national counter-terrorism alert level remains at medium - a terrorist attack in Australia could occur.

Discussions ranged across a broad spectrum of counter-terrorism issues. NCTC members recognise that a wide range of agencies in all jurisdictions are involved in national arrangements. There were valuable discussions in relation to health sector preparedness, science, engineering and technology support for counter-terrorism, emergency management capability, consequence management issues and the protection of critical infrastructure. Australian Government representatives briefed the Committee on the national security measures in the 2004-05 Budget. The Committee noted security preparations for forthcoming international events including the Athens 2004 Olympic Games and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

The NCTC paid close attention to transport security issues. In particular: in the maritime sector in the lead up to the 1 July 2004 implementation deadline for the International Maritime Organisation's International Ship and Port Facility Security Code; and in the land transport sector following the Madrid attacks in March 2004. The Committee agreed there is a need for all jurisdictions to continue to work cooperatively in these areas.

The NCTC noted progress in relation to the Council of Australian Governments' Review of Hazardous Materials. The Committee also noted that all Governments have given in-principle agreement to regulate ammonium nitrate, with details of the regulatory regime to be finalised by Governments in the near future.

The NCTC Working Group on Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) reported on the outcome of a recent workshop on developing a national approach for the use of GIS for counter-terrorism. The workshop provided a forum for all jurisdictions and New Zealand to discuss their various approaches to the issue. Industry participants were able to demonstrate the wide range of products and capabilities available in GIS.

The Committee noted the arrangements under the National Counter-Terrorism Plan were rigorously tested during the recent multi-jurisdictional counter-terrorism exercise *Mercury 04*. The exercise was Australia's largest and most ambitious to date, involving over 3000 members of our national security agencies, State and Territory police and emergency services and the owners and operators of major critical infrastructure. The NCTC's exercise programme regularly tests preparedness across a range of capabilities including police response, call-out of the Australian Defence Force, response to casualties and consequence management. *Mercury '04* successfully tested strategic-level decision-making processes and was marked by a very high level of commitment across jurisdictions.

National Counter-Terrorism Committee

20 May 2004

NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

14 SEPTEMBER 2004

COMMUNIQUE

The National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC) met today by teleconference from Canberra to consider security measures in Australia, particularly in relation to surface transport, and to provide reassurance that appropriate security measures are in place across all jurisdictions. Senior officials from relevant Australian Government agencies, Premiers' and Chief Ministers' Departments, State and Territory Police and State and Territory transport agencies were involved in the meeting.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) provided a briefing about the Jakarta bombing on 9 September, the ongoing joint investigation between the AFP and the Indonesian National Police and the current security environment. **The NCTC noted that despite the attack in Jakarta, the level of national counter-terrorism alert remains unchanged at medium, as it has since 12 September 2001. This means a terrorist attack in Australia is feasible and could occur.** The meeting further noted that the possibility of another attack against Australians in Indonesia cannot be ruled out, and that terrorist attacks in a number of other parts of the world could occur at any time.

Australia's response to terrorism relies on strong cooperative, coordinated and consultative relationships among Australian Government, State and Territory Governments, departments and agencies. The NCTC confirmed that the national counter-terrorism arrangements established under the National Counter-Terrorism Plan are robust and will continue to be well tested in each jurisdiction. The threat environment is constantly monitored to ensure that national security policies and arrangements are appropriate in the circumstances.

The Committee agreed that the most effective response to terrorism is to actively deny terrorists any possible means of planning and conducting attacks. Law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies are working closely together to ensure there is the strongest possible protection in place. Agencies' readiness and capabilities and the arrangements under the National Counter-Terrorism Plan are regularly tested through the national counter-terrorism exercise programme, with exercises occurring in all jurisdictions over the last six months. The Committee noted that exercise *Line Breaker* is the next counter-terrorism exercise in the programme, scheduled to take place in Queensland during this and next week.

Assistance from the public

As on previous occasions the Committee noted that an informed and vigilant public is an effective preventive mechanism. Members of the public should report any suspicious behaviour or event immediately to the relevant authorities. This might include unusual videotaping or photography of official buildings or other critical infrastructure, suspicious vehicles parked near such buildings, abandoned luggage or unusual purchases of fertiliser, chemicals or explosives. **In emergencies, contact should be made with police through 000.** Other information should be reported immediately to the **24 hour toll free National Security Hotline – 1800 123 400.**

Transport security

The Committee noted advice from the Department of Transport and Regional Services that additional transport security measures have been implemented since the Jakarta bombing, with a focus on air and sea routes to and from Indonesia. More stringent and visible security measures are in place in major airports and ports, including baggage and passenger screening on direct flights to and from Indonesia. The Committee noted that the Australian Government intends to seek discussions with Indonesian authorities on further possible enhancements to airport security.

The Committee heard that while there was no change to the national alert level, it is important that security measures be reassessed in light of recent world events to ensure appropriate measures are in place and to maintain public confidence in the security of our transport systems. The Committee noted that vigilance at Australian airports and ports has been increased as part of routine practice following an attack against Australian interests. A similar process was followed post-Bali.

The Committee noted the continued efforts of state and territory governments in addressing surface transport security in their respective jurisdictions. In particular, governments are working through priorities identified in the National Transport Security Strategy and are actively considering the recommendations of the high level overseas mission into surface transport security.

The Committee noted the ongoing efforts of State and Territory Governments to establish and maintain appropriate security measures based on good security planning, incorporating national and international best practice.

Examples of recent activities include:

- the completion of risk context workshops for transport owners and operators;
- the provision of nationally consistent guidance material to assist operators to continue security assessments and strengthen security planning;
- the development of comprehensive response plans; and
- as appropriate, the enhancement of physical protective transport security.

The Committee also noted that work on the formal intergovernmental agreement on surface transport security, which was agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in June 2004, is progressing.

The Committee noted that each jurisdiction, in close consultation with NCTC members, would update the Australian Transport Council (ATC) on implementation of surface transport security measures. The ATC is meeting in November 2004.

Critical infrastructure protection

All jurisdictions confirmed that they are continuing to work closely with the private sector to ensure that Australia's critical infrastructure is protected from terrorist attack, that single points of failure are minimised and rapid and tested recovery arrangements are in place. This is in line with arrangements set out in the Critical Infrastructure Protection National Strategy. The strategy is endorsed by the Critical Infrastructure Advisory Council, which has members from all jurisdictions and major industry sectors. In particular, governments are discussing risk assessment with owners and operators of critical infrastructure as well as the possible security actions that should be considered if the threat to a particular piece of infrastructure or to an industry sector was to increase.

Public events

As a nation Australia plays host to range of sporting events and community gatherings. Being able to do so is an important part of the Australian way of life. Recent experience in hosting the Rugby World Cup, the Sydney Olympics and CHOGM means that law enforcement and security agencies have well-trying plans in place for major venues around the country. The Committee confirmed that all reasonable security measures are in place for major community gatherings and sporting events and they continue to be reviewed, based on the current security environment.

The Committee also noted that under the National Counter-Terrorism Plan there are standing arrangements for jurisdictions to assist each other and that relevant Australian Government agencies offered to provide State and Territory Police with additional assistance as required.

National Counter-Terrorism Committee
14 September 2004

NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

7-8 DECEMBER 2004

COMMUNIQUE

The biannual meeting of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee (the Committee), co-chaired by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, was hosted by the Victorian Government in Melbourne on 7-8 December 2004. The meeting was attended by senior representatives from the Australian and State and Territory Governments and Police. New Zealand officials attended the meeting as observers.

The Committee noted briefings from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Office of National Assessments and the Australian Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism. The Committee noted that the national counter-terrorism alert level remained at Medium – a terrorist attack in Australia could occur. There is a continued need for vigilance and a nationally consistent and coordinated approach to counter-terrorism arrangements. The Committee considered a range of important issues and initiatives to further strengthen these arrangements.

The protection of critical infrastructure continues to be a priority. In June 2004, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed that the National Counter-Terrorism Committee should consult industry on the development of guidelines for the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorism. This consultation is complete and the Committee agreed to refer the draft guidelines to COAG for final consideration.

The Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games will be the largest sporting event to be held in Australia since the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Noting that security planning for the Games is well advanced, the Committee received a briefing on the wider, non-security planning aspects for the Games from the Executive Director of the Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination. A multi-jurisdictional counter-terrorism exercise, to be held in late 2005, will test security arrangements for the Games. The Committee was also briefed on plans for Australia to host the Asia Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) in 2007, and noted that security arrangements will form a significant component of these plans.

The Committee noted a briefing from the Department of Transport and Regional Services on aviation, maritime and land transport security issues, including progress towards implementing expanded security measures at regional airports by the 10 March 2005 deadline. The Committee noted progress in developing the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Surface Transport Security and that the draft agreement will be referred to COAG for consideration.

The Committee agreed to expand the mandate of the working group on national spatial information for national security to encompass counter-terrorism, emergency management and critical infrastructure protection. The working group will coordinate a national approach to the development of spatial information capabilities, working closely with the Australia New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC).

The Committee endorsed a strategic framework for the development of a nation-wide operational counter-terrorism capability, to consolidate guidance and priorities previously agreed by Australian governments and building on existing counter-terrorism capabilities, including emergency management capabilities. The Committee also considered a range of initiatives to further strengthen the ability of Australian governments to communicate and exchange information in a

crisis. The Australian Health Disaster Management Policy Committee also provided a progress report to the Committee.

Australian governments have made significant progress towards implementing the principles for the regulation of ammonium nitrate, agreed by COAG in June 2004. The Committee noted that the principles would come into effect in all jurisdictions by 30 June 2005. The Committee also considered the progress of the COAG review of hazardous materials and agreed to the development of an agreed process for the completion of the review, incorporating a strategy for comprehensive consultation with industry and other stakeholders. The Science, Engineering and Technology Unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet also provided a briefing on their ongoing program of research activities to support Australia's counter-terrorism arrangements.

The Committee approved a framework for Australian Government and State and Territory Government agencies responsible for public information activities relating to national security. The Committee also approved the revised National Counter-Terrorism Handbook, incorporating lessons learnt from the multi-jurisdictional counter-terrorism exercise, *Mercury '04*, held earlier this year.

National Counter-Terrorism Committee
8 December 2004

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 66

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Regarding the Australian National Child Offender Register, what were the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General/Australasian Police Ministers Council in relation to refining the model legislation?

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

The Australasian Police Ministers Council and the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General have considered the Australian National Child Offender Register on several occasions during the last year.

New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Northern Territory and Western Australia have passed child offender registration legislation and other jurisdictions are in the process of preparing such legislation.

It would contravene the *COAG Guidelines for the Operation of Ministerial Councils* to release details of the deliberations of the Australasian Police Ministers Council or the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General without the prior agreement of that Council or Committee.