

Chapter 1

Introduction

The Committee's statutory duty

1.1 The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission has a statutory duty under section 55(1)(c) of the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002* to examine each annual report of the Australian Crime Commission and report to Parliament on any matter appearing in, or arising out of, any such annual report.

1.2 This is part of the wider duty set out in section 55 of the Act to provide Parliamentary scrutiny of the ACC's performance of its statutory functions as well as examining trends in organised criminal activity.

Report under consideration

1.3 The ACC Annual Report was tabled on 8 December 2005 in the House of Representatives, and on the 7 February 2006 in the Senate, in accordance with section 61 of the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002*.

Inquiry into the Annual Report

1.4 In examining the report, the Committee held a public hearing in Parliament House, Canberra on 28 March 2006.

1.5 In this report, 'report' refers to the Annual Report of the Australian Crime Commission. Other reports are referred to in full.

Adoption of the Report

1.6 The Parliamentary Joint Committee adopted this report at a private meeting on 16 October 2006.

Acknowledgements

1.7 The Committee acknowledges the significant cooperation of both the Chairman of the ACC Board, Commissioner Mick Keelty, the CEO of the ACC, Mr Alastair Milroy, and officers of the ACC. In the reporting period, the ACC has provided regular written reports and briefings, and has met with the Committee on a number of occasions. The willingness of the Commission to brief the Committee is of great assistance and has contributed to the building of an effective working relationship.

1.8 The Commonwealth Ombudsman plays a vital role in accountability mechanisms of the ACC, through investigating complaints, and auditing records. The

Committee also wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Professor John McMillan, and his staff.