

REC'D: 18 AUG 05

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18 August 2005

The Committee Secretary  
Parliamentary Joint Committee  
On the Australian Crime Commission  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Curtis

### **REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION ACT 2002**

For some time the Police Federation of Australia has been liaising with the ACC regarding the possible development of a National Secondment Package for all State, Territory and Federal Police working at the ACC.

The rationale for such an arrangement is that the ACC is primarily staffed with police officers on secondment from all Australian Police forces on terms and conditions of employment relative to their home jurisdiction. This has caused a number of problems over the years when officers working side by side from different jurisdictions were being paid varying rates of pay and penalties for different conditions of employment. Apart from being administratively difficult for the ACC it had the potential to cause moral issues due to officers performing the same function but being remunerated differently.

As a result of meetings with the ACC we were advised that they saw benefit in such a proposal because they relied on the sworn powers of police coming from the State, Territory and Federal Police, however they wanted to ensure that whatever was negotiated didn't cause any concern to individual jurisdictions and they were administratively simple.

To allow such negotiations to proceed, the PFA sought advice from the ACC as to who they considered the employer of police working at the ACC on secondment to enable us to determine who we needed to negotiate with. This was done by way of correspondence in May 2004 following a meeting with the ACC. Unfortunately this issue has not been resolved however it is our view that officers on secondment remain employees of their home jurisdiction. If the ACC were desirous of changing the secondment arrangements, then the issue of the employer, for negotiation purposes, could be different.

The PFA is of a view that the development of a set of common terms and conditions for all police working at the ACC is an issue the Joint Committee may have some interest in.

The PFA made a submission regarding the formation of the ACC and are pleased that much of what was contained in our submission was adopted as the ACC model. We believe that the negotiation of a generic secondment package for police would enhance the operational ability of the ACC and ensure that many of the administrative issues that confront its administration at present could be removed. We also believe that a generic package for all police would overcome any potential moral issues that arise from time to time.

The PFA looks forward to appearing before the Committee to give a first hand account of how such an arrangement would be beneficial.

Sincerely yours



Mark Burgess  
Chief Executive Officer