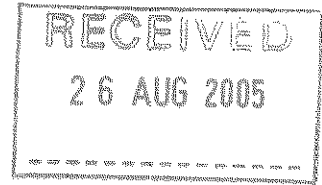




Our Ref: 11-1851

Mr Jonathan Curtis
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on the
Australian Crime Commission
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON
THE AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

REC'D: WA Minister for

FROM: Police

AUTHORISED FOR PUBLICATION:

SECRETARY:

Dear Mr Curtis

REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION ACT 2002

I refer to the Committee's call for submissions on the review of the Australian Crime Commission Act 2002.

The Australian Crime Commission is an important component of law enforcement in this state. It works effectively in partnership with the Western Australia Police, the Australian Federal Police and other law enforcement agencies in WA.

However, contingent upon WA's agreement at the Council of Australian Governments in 2001 for the abolition of the National Crime Authority and the creation of the ACC was a commitment on behalf of the Commonwealth to maintain an effective presence in Western Australia.

The WA Government was gratified that with the creation of the ACC an office was established in Perth. Since that time we have been heartened by the excellent results which have been achieved by the ACC office in WA. However, implicit in the COAG agreement to establish and maintain an office in WA was the notion that its existing investigative capacity would be maintained.

It is understood that when the ACC office first opened in WA in 2001, there were eight investigators on staff. Today there is now only one investigator at the Perth office of the ACC. On all objective standards this is insufficient to operate an effective and fully functional investigative team.

In the circumstances we consider that the COAG commitment has not been honoured and we would be concerned were the Committee to make a finding that the continued presence of the ACC in WA were not warranted.

We would also be concerned that any assessment was made as to the effectiveness or management of the ACC Perth office based upon outcomes when its investigative capacity is clearly below critical mass. We would further submit that this staffing deficiency may well be a matter which the Committee could usefully make some

inquiries as it is our belief that this may represent an inappropriate allocation of resources in what should be a fully effective national organisation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Roberts".

**HON MICHELLE ROBERTS MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

23 AUG 2005