



File: 2005 120252

WA Police submission to:

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission Inquiry into Amphetamines and Other Synthetic Drugs

The following information is submitted in response a request to provide submissions to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the ACC inquiry into Amphetamine and Other Synthetic Drugs (AOSD).

The PJC on the ACC has initiated an inquiry into AOSD:

“to examine trends and changes in criminal activities, practices and methods and report to both House of the Parliament any change which the Committee thinks desirable to the functions, structure powers and procedures of the ACC”.

The PJC inquiry will inquire into manufacture, importation and use of AOSD in Australia. The inquiry and proposed terms of reference are supported by the WA Police and it is not considered necessary to provide a comprehensive submission to the inquiry.

a. Trends in the production and consumption of AOSD

AOSD continues to be the dominant choice of illicit drug users in Western Australia, which is demonstrated by both seizure statistics and the increasing incidence of clandestine laboratories. The number of clandestine laboratories processed in Western Australia has increased by an average of 32% per annum since 1998.

b. Strategies to reduce the AOSD market.

With the significant user demand for AOSD, the most effective method of reducing the market is supply reduction. Ongoing National cooperation and targeting, including participation by law enforcement, Government and industry will generate the most effective mechanisms and strategies for reducing the supply of AOSD to end users.

c. The extent and nature of organised crime involvement.

AOSD is the emerging illicit drug of choice in Western Australia in accordance with National trends and organised crime is involved at the highest level. Motor Cycle Gangs (MCG) and ethnic street gangs pose the primary organised crime threat in Western Australia and both groups are a prevalent source of AOSD.

d. The nature of law enforcement response.

The WA Police Organised Crime Squad provides the primary response to AOSD in terms of both criminal investigation and chemical diversion strategies. Amendments to the *Misuse of Drugs Act* have provided significant opportunities to counter AOSD manufacture.

e. The adequacy of existing legislation and administrative arrangements.

On 1 January 2005 the pre-existing Code of Conduct between the Scientific and Chemical Industries and WA Police was enacted by amendments to the *Misuse of Drugs Act*. The amendments principally enforce the voluntary Code of Conduct by placing legislative conditions on suppliers of prescribed precursor chemicals and creating offences for persons found in possession of those chemicals.

To date, the amendments have provided significant contribution to the identification of clandestine laboratories and prosecution of offenders in Western Australia.

f. An assessment of the adequacy of the Australian law enforcement response.

The WA Police have derived significant benefits from participation in National AOSD initiatives and cooperative law enforcement strategies. ACC coercive hearings and initiatives emanating from the National working group to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals into illicit drug manufacture have been of particular benefit. Ongoing cooperation and participation between law enforcement, Government and industry is essential.

Information supplied by:

Roger Beer
Detective Senior Sergeant
Officer in Charge
Organised Crime Squad

Endorsed by:

Tony Vidovich
Acting Superintendent
Organised Crime Division

12 January 2006.