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Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity
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PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON
THE AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

RECD: 21 Aug 2007

FROM:

AUTHORISED FOR PUBLICATION:

SECRETARY: 

Dear Jacqueline

Supplementary submission by CrimTrac

JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE ON THE AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Reference: Future impact of serious and organised crime on Australian society

This submission relates to information contained in the Proof Committee Hansard of the public hearing of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission, held in Canberra on Thursday 5 July 2007 and Friday 6 July 2007.

1. Clarification of statement made by Mr Hayes, Member, at Page 11 of the Proof Committee Hansard, Thursday 5 July 2007

“Mr HAYES—I understand what you said and I think it is correct. I think the Commonwealth played a good role in terms of, for instance, development of the DNA database. It is not a Commonwealth function although they funded it to the tune of about \$50 million on the basis that the states would bring down model legislation...”

CrimTrac wishes to advise the Committee that the Commonwealth committed \$50m for the development of information systems in accordance with Recital D of the Inter-governmental Agreement, as follows:

- (i) A new National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS),
- (ii) A National DNA Criminal Investigation System (NCIDD),
- (iii) A National Child Sex Offender System (developed as ANCOR – Australian National Child Offender Register), and
- (iv) The provision of rapid access to national operational policing data (given effect by the development of the CrimTrac Police Reference System – CPRS).

The \$50m has been fully expended on the delivery of these systems with some additional resources required from CrimTrac, jurisdictions, and the Commonwealth confiscated assets account under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* to complete the roll-out of the CPRS minimum nationwide person profile.

2. Clarification of response by Mr McDevitt, CEO, CrimTrac at page 78 of the Proof Committee Hansard, Thursday 5 July 2007

“Senator PARRY—If we go back to Ben McDevitt with all these flags against your name, if the MNPP were running, could someone in your organisation tailor that? Looking at corruption issues, could someone tailor that? Could someone doctor a record? Could someone reduce information—or is it the integrity of each individual agency that manages these individual data basis?

Mr McDevitt—It is both. As I say, we provide the connectivity. The data integrity issues really sit with jurisdictions in terms of the information or the integrity of the information that they are putting on to the system. As I say, the MNPP is not actually a centralised database, so we do not hold the information. But certainly we have very powerful audit tools. We can audit every access to the system and so we can very quickly backtrack and find out when an access has been made.”

A: CrimTrac wishes to clarify the information provided in relation to MNPP.

The MNPP is a system for sharing information about Person’s of Interest amongst Australian police jurisdictions. Law enforcement personnel can use MNPP to:

- Access information about a Person of Interest from another jurisdiction
- Perform nationwide searches using name and other identifying information

The MNPP system is housed under the CrimTrac Police Reference System (CPRS) which will in the future also hold information about Vehicles of Interest and Firearms of Interest in an integrated manner.

CPRS/MNPP is unique in its structure. It was built to support both the centralised (information held at CrimTrac) and federated (information retrieved online from jurisdictional systems) models.

CPRS/MNPP is largely a centralised database, whereby CrimTrac holds information received from jurisdictions. The majority of the Person of Interest data is electronically provisioned to CrimTrac and hosted centrally. The CPRS/MNPP system has therefore been designed to enable jurisdictions to use an electronic data service to create, update and delete information held centrally on the MNPP system.

The system also supports online retrieval of information which jurisdictions have agreed to share but which is stored within jurisdictions (federated model). In the case of photographic information, the data is not held centrally on MNPP. NSW Police has a “photo web-service” which allows law enforcement personnel who are enquiring on a particular Person of Interest to access, relevant and approved, photographs held within the NSW Police domain. The photograph is therefore held by NSW Police and CrimTrac obtains that information at the time the record is accessed.

In the future CrimTrac may need to capitalise more on the federated capability in MNPP to access more detailed information from jurisdictions which does not need to be hosted centrally.

CrimTrac is supportive of both a federated and centralised models. This allows CrimTrac to be flexible in facilitating information exchange solutions for the benefit law enforcement agencies.

B: CrimTrac seeks to clarify the statement in respect of audit capability

CrimTrac has an audit capability that enables audit access of CrimTrac systems. CrimTrac is also in the process of obtaining more powerful audit tools, which will allow CrimTrac and jurisdictions to more quickly backtrack and identify access details.

3. Clarification of request of information by the Chair in relation to maritime and aviation security card application information being stored on CrimTrac databases, page 13 of the Proof Committee Hansard, Friday 6 July 2007

CHAIR—Could you take it on notice and let us know if there is a privacy policy or other issues which would prevent those who are issued with cards going onto the CrimTrac databases? Perhaps you know the answer now, but, if you do not, could you take that on notice and let us have half a page—

CrimTrac wishes to advise the Committee that it would be technically possible to include information pertaining to maritime and aviation security card applicants by adding new data elements on MNPP ('involvements'). This could not occur however until the MNPP system is rolled out nationally in July 2008, and would be subject to approval by the CrimTrac Board of Management who represent all of the police jurisdictions, as owners of the information.

The Committee should also note that a policy justification would be required for new candidature rules (new elements of information) to be added to MNPP.

The linking of maritime and aviation security applicant information to other information on MNPP could be used to identify when a particular applicant's circumstances changed - for example, if an applicant subsequent to the issue of their licence, received a criminal conviction, or using another example, a warrant was issued for the applicants arrest in a particular jurisdiction. The Committee should note that consideration would need to be given to the mechanism for linking information from applicants to other information held on MNPP (for example, automated using fingerprint record number or driver's licence number etc.)

CrimTrac is obliged to comply with the Information Privacy Principles contained in the Privacy Act 1998. Privacy matters would need to be formally investigated before any information of this nature could be added to MNPP, however it is expected that the placement of such information on MNPP would require the informed consent of the applicant, such as the applicant would have to have knowledge that the information would be matched against law enforcement information holdings and disclosed to law enforcement agencies.

Yours sincerely



Ben McDevitt AM APM

17 August 2007