

## **Additional comments by the Liberal and Family First members of the committee**

The Liberal and Family First members of the Committee believe that outlaw motorcycle gangs are serious criminal organisations and to believe otherwise is a dangerous misconception. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are a major player in serious and organised crime in Australia, particularly in the illegal drug trade.

The Report's recommendations do not directly target the dismantling of organised crime gangs or criminal syndicates. The Liberal and Family First members of the Committee strongly believe that anti-association laws/and or laws specifically aimed at dismantling organised crime groups are a crucial element of legislative arrangements to control organised crime groups involved in serious and organised crime.

Internationally, laws targeting criminal associations have been used with great effect:

- In Italy, anti-association laws in conjunction with unexplained wealth provisions have been pivotal in prosecuting major figures in the Mafia.
- In the United States, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act (RICO Act) has been used effectively to prosecute major figures in organised crime, including the heads of the Gambino and Genovese crime families and their known associates.
- In Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police use laws targeting specific offences for participating with a criminal organisation to control outlaw motorcycle gangs, in particular the Hells Angels, which were very effective.
- In Hong Kong, anti-association laws were used with great effect against the Triads.

The *Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008* in South Australia includes anti-association provisions, as does the *Crime (Criminal Organisations) Act 2009* in NSW, and the Queensland Government has signalled its intention to implement similar anti-association laws.

Therefore, we strongly support national anti-association laws that target known criminal associates involved in organised crime.

It is our view that both anti-association laws AND unexplained wealth provisions are necessary in targeting serious and organised crime.

**Senator Sue Boyce**

**Senator Steve Fielding**

**The Hon. Sussan Ley MP**

**Senator Stephen Parry**

**Mr Jason Wood MP**