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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our Ref: 09/53820

Dr Jacqueline Dewar
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission
S1.107
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dewar

Examination of Australian Crime Commission's Annual Report 2007-08

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 May 2009 seeking further information regarding usage of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Database (ACID). Please find below responses to your questions:

1. Is the decrease in uploads from other jurisdictions indicative of a decline in usage by those jurisdictions?

No, the decrease in uploads from other jurisdictions is not indicative of a decline in usage by jurisdictions. The total number of registered and active ACID/ALEIN users increased modestly for each agency between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

2. Are there particular jurisdictions whose contributions have declined more than others?

A review of agency uploads to ACID by financial year indicates decreases in the number of document uploads by five agencies: Queensland Police Service (QPS); South Australia Police (SAPol); Tasmania Police (TASPol); Victoria Police (VicPol); and Western Australia Police (WAPS). The rates of decrease are consistent across most of the aforementioned agencies, with the exception of VicPol which decreased from 9015 in 2006/07 to 95 in 2007/08. The substantial decrease during 2007/08 occurred due to a technical error in the VicPol transfer mechanism which has since been rectified. VicPol is on track to deliver a 100% increase on 2006/07 figures during 2008/09.

3. Is the decline of concern to the ACC? And is the ACC addressing the decline?

Variations in the volume of document contributions by agencies do occur between reporting periods due to fluctuations in jurisdictional operational and intelligence collection activities. The ACC continues to work closely with ACID/ALEIN users to improve the volume of document transfers from the jurisdictions. In the past twelve months the ACC has had success in this regard on a number of fronts:

ACC HEADQUARTERS
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- As a result of their implementation of the Standard Information Exchange Format (SIEF), WAPS have undertaken a retrospective transfer of approximately 189,000 documents to ACID.
- Customs & Border Protection have commenced transferring approximately 1.6 million documents from their National Intelligence System (NIS) to ACID. This transfer will be completed by September 2009.
- The New South Wales Crime Commission (NSWCC) have agreed to upload all of their Post Operational Assessments to ACID, providing enriched information about serious and organised crime to all ACID/ALEIN users.

In addition to these outcomes, the ACC has been liaising closely with NSWPol about their contributions to ACID. NSWPol has indicated that it has made a recommendation to its Commissioner that it initiate automated transfers of NSWPol Information Reports (IRs) to ACID at the 'protected' level and below, rather than utilising the current manual method. If approved this will substantially increase the number of NSWPol IRs being transferred to ACID.

The ACC is also working closely with SAPol which is in the process of designing a new operational policing and intelligence system. The ACC has been providing SAPol with technical advice around implementing the Standard Information Exchange Format (SIEF) into this system to facilitate the transferring of intelligence holdings to ACID.

The ACC is also promoting ACID/ALEIN to users through the publication of a newsletter, through a user survey to better understand how people are using it and by providing expanded training to external agencies. As an indicator of our efforts towards training law enforcement personnel in the use of ACID/ALEIN, the ACC has delivered training to approximately 150 external users in the first half of this calendar year.

In addition to this, the ACC is working with approximately 15 Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies which have expressed an interest in connecting to ACID/ALEIN. The ACC is in the process of understanding their requirements, and connecting them to the system so they can share information and intelligence at a national level.

The ACC plans to continue engaging all user agencies over the next year to improve their contributions to, and use of, ACID/ALEIN.

Should you require further information please contact Karla Wass on (02) 6243 6840.

Yours sincerely



PP John Lawler APM
Chief Executive Officer
20 May 2009

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