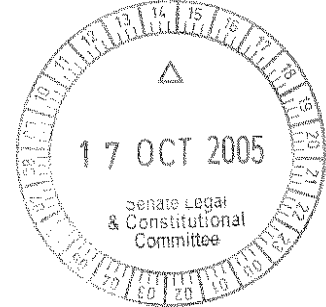


October 2005

Mr Owen Walsh  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Walsh

**Inquiry into the provisions of the *Law and Justice Legislation Amendment (Video Link Evidence and Other Measures) Bill 2005***

I am writing in response to your invitation for the AFP to make a submission to this Inquiry.

The AFP strongly supports the amendments proposed in the *Law and Justice Legislation Amendment (Video Link Evidence and Other Measures) Bill 2005*. Of particular importance to the AFP are the proposed amendments to:

- the *Crimes Act 1914* to enable video link evidence to be used in proceedings for terrorism and related offences;
- the *Foreign Evidence Act 1994* to enable other forms of evidence to be used in these proceedings where it is not possible to provide evidence by video link;
- the *Crimes Act 1914* to allow the use of digital equipment to record interviews with suspects; and
- the *Surveillance Devices Act 2004* to allow retrieval warrants to be used to remove tracking devices installed under an authorisation issued under section 39 of the *Surveillance Devices Act 2004*.

The AFP would welcome the opportunity to assist the Committee further in its inquiry by appearing at public hearing if that is proposed. The contact officer for this matter is Peter Whowell, Manager Legislation Program, ph: 6275 7467.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Colvin  
Chief of Staff