



AUSTRALIAN
**CRIMINAL
INTELLIGENCE
COMMISSION**



2019-20

ANNUAL REPORT

www.acic.gov.au

Annual report contact details

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We welcome feedback on our annual report, particularly about its readability and usefulness. Please send your feedback to <annualreport@acic.gov.au>.

An electronic version of this report, along with further information about the ACIC and our work, is available on our website at <www.acic.gov.au/publications/annual-reports>.

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ACIC at a glance

The ACIC is a national criminal intelligence agency with investigative, collection, analysis and information delivery functions. We are part of the national collaborative response to crime affecting Australia.



Our vision

A safer Australia that is better connected, informed and capable of responding to crime.



Our approach

Discover, **understand** and **connect** to improve the national ability to **respond** to crime impacting Australia.



Our work

- ▶ Enhance the national picture across the spectrum of crime by developing strategic criminal intelligence assessments and advice on national crime.
- ▶ Work with international and domestic partners to disrupt the activities of serious and organised crime targets and reduce their impact on Australia.
- ▶ Conduct special operations and special investigations addressing priority areas.
- ▶ Develop and maintain national information and intelligence sharing services and systems.



Our purpose

Make Australia safer through improved national ability to discover, understand and respond to current and emerging crime, including the ability to connect police and law enforcement to essential criminal intelligence, policing knowledge and information through collaborative national information systems and services.

About our report

This report summarises the performance of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission for the financial year ending 30 June 2020.

As a statutory agency within the Home Affairs portfolio, we manage our performance through the outcome and program structure in the annual portfolio budget statements.

This report reviews our performance against the performance measures in our portfolio budget statements and our corporate plan, and provides information on our financial performance, accountability and management of people and resources, as required by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

How we assess our performance

Through both quantitative and qualitative measures, this report demonstrates how we have performed in our work to discover, understand and connect to improve the national ability to respond to crime impacting Australia.

Our performance indicators this year reflect our strategic outlook and directly align with our *Strategic Plan 2018–23*, *Corporate Plan 2019–20* and *Portfolio Budget Statements 2019–20*.

Our strategic plan and corporate plan, and a link to our portfolio budget statements, are available from our website at <www.acic.gov.au>.

How the nature of our work affects our reporting

For operational reasons and because much of our work is classified, we cannot publicly report on some activities.

When activities are no longer sensitive or constrained by legal or statutory requirements, and wherever possible, we are committed to being open and transparent and providing information to the public. This includes our intention to produce additional reports each year, in both classified and unclassified forms, to enhance understanding of what we do.

In addition, elements of our work are long term, so results occur months or years after our initial involvement. Examples include court decisions, policy and law reforms, and changes in industry and community behaviour that inhibit or prevent criminal activities.

Performance in 2019–20

ACIC performance criteria		Result	Comments
DISCOVER	The picture of crime impacting Australia is improving because the ACIC is discovering crime threats, vulnerabilities, patterns, methods and trends previously unknown.	✓	Met —Our discovery of previously unknown targets was significantly higher than in previous years, and six new targets were added to the Australian Priority Organisation Target (APOT) list. We identified and understood new criminal methodologies impacting Australia. Stakeholder satisfaction with our information and intelligence on changes in the crime environment increased.
	The understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia is increasingly more comprehensive, integrated and relevant.	✓	Met —Our range of intelligence products improved the understanding of the national picture of serious and organised crime impacting Australia. The number of analytical intelligence products produced was in line with the four-year average while the number of tactical products exceeded the average. We delivered products addressing all board-agreed priority crime themes, exceeding the four-year averages for the majority of themes. Stakeholder satisfaction with our information products increased.
UNDERSTAND	The understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia is increasingly used to influence strategies and responses to crime.	✓	Met —Our intelligence informed and guided strategies to respond to crime, including through the findings of the ongoing National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program and the release of the <i>Serious and Organised Crime Risk Assessment</i> . Stakeholder agreement that our intelligence informs policy/legal responses to criminal activity increased.
	The ACIC better informs and influences collaborative efforts to harden the environment against crime.	✓	Met —We provided information to support hardening of the environment against crime, and participated in the development, implementation and evaluation of policy and legislation in relation to agency powers, emerging issues and trends, and oversight of the broader intelligence community. This was confirmed by our stakeholders.
RESPOND	The ACIC is conducting collaborative investigations and intelligence operations, and producing intelligence with and for partners that is effective in disrupting, disabling and dismantling serious and organised crime.	✓	Met —We continued to work with partners to disrupt serious and organised crime affecting Australia. We are evolving our approach to disrupting APOTs to focus on achieving more significant and longer term effects. We continue to work with partners on a range of task forces. Stakeholder agreement that our investigations are of value increased.
	ACIC partners are better informed and enabled to undertake policing and community safeguarding activities through access to national information systems and services.	✓	Met —We informed our partners, and enabled them to protect the community, through the delivery of national information systems and services. Stakeholder satisfaction with our systems and services increased.
CONNECT	Existing ACIC systems and services are accessible, used and reliable.	✓	Met —We met the board-agreed availability benchmarks for all relevant systems. Numbers of service users increased or remained steady for 7 out of 12 systems and numbers of searches increased for 5 out of 7 systems. Stakeholder satisfaction with the reliability and accessibility of our systems and services increased.
	Through effective collaboration, enable the delivery and implementation of new and enhanced ACIC systems and services that satisfy the needs of stakeholders and users.	⊘	Partially met —While we delivered new and enhanced services and made progress in the delivery of others, due to a decline in stakeholder satisfaction we did not fully meet the criterion.
	The ACIC is sharing increasing volume, breadth and formats (mediums, platforms) of criminal intelligence and information, police information, and other relevant information.	✓	Met —Our dissemination of analytical and tactical intelligence products increased significantly while dissemination of alerts decreased due to COVID-19. We completed a number of requests for information in line with the four-year average, and provided five public reports.

2019–20 highlights

We **DISCOVER** and **UNDERSTAND** more about the picture of crime impacting Australia through our intelligence collection and analysis, investigations, operations and collaborations



208 previously unknown targets discovered



6 potential new Australian Priority Organisation Targets (APOTs) listed



139 intelligence products containing examination material finalised



157 examinations to discover new information about serious and organised crime conducted



153 analytical intelligence products finalised



key reports produced on **gangs, cybercrime, wastewater drug data** and **emerging threats from criminal encrypted communications**



85% of stakeholders surveyed agreed that the ACIC provides information and intelligence on changes in the crime environment (such as new crime threats, methods, trends and patterns)

Through discovering, understanding and connecting, we improve the national ability to **RESPOND**, including by preventing and disrupting serious and organised crime, and protecting the community



5 APOTs disrupted to the point that they are no longer considered APOT-level threats



34 criminal entities disrupted



68 entities involved in **9** financial referrals totalling **\$22.2 million** of offences



260 charges laid and **106** people charged



\$3.1 billion street value of drugs and precursors seized



84% of stakeholders surveyed agreed that our intelligence and information inform policy and legal responses to criminal activity threatening Australia

2019–20 highlights

We **CONNECT** police and law enforcement to essential criminal intelligence, policing knowledge and information, unite our partners and share knowledge



14 systems that help our partners prevent, detect and reduce crime in the community provided



14,507 information and intelligence products disseminated among **321** national and international law enforcement partners and other stakeholders



Australian Firearms Information Network system enhancements delivered



3 National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program reports released



89% of stakeholders surveyed that used our services and systems agreed that our information and intelligence services were valuable to the work of their organisation

Our **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE** is underpinned by an accountable and transparent governance framework



\$244.602 million total revenue



\$140.761 million own source income



\$239.276 million total expenses



\$5.333 million operating surplus



\$103.841 million operating appropriation



\$0.831 million adjusted loss

Our **PEOPLE** are skilled, experienced and diverse



781 staff and **43** secondees from partner agencies



15% of staff from non-English speaking backgrounds



394 male, **387** female and **0** indeterminate staff



81% retention rate

Letter of transmittal



AUSTRALIAN
CRIMINAL
INTELLIGENCE
COMMISSION

16 September 2020

The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) for the year ending 30 June 2020, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The report outlines the ACIC's performance for 2019–20 and includes audited financial statements.

Section 46(1) of the Act requires me to provide you with a report for presentation to the Australian Parliament.

In addition, I certify that I am satisfied that the ACIC has undertaken all appropriate fraud control measures as set out in section 10 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Phelan', is written over a white background.

Michael Phelan APM
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

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