



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

Section 2

Annual performance

How we achieved our purpose and managed our finances

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Annual performance statements

Statement by the accountable authority

As the accountable authority of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), I present the 2019–20 annual performance statements of the ACIC, as required under paragraph 39(1)(a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

In my opinion, these annual performance statements are based on properly maintained records, accurately reflect the performance of the entity, and comply with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act.



Michael Phelan APM
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

22 September 2020

Purpose

The purpose of the ACIC is to 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.

The ACIC delivers its purpose in accordance with the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002*, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, the *Public Service Act 1999* and other legislation.

Our purpose is stated in the ACIC's *Corporate Plan 2019–20* and *Strategic Plan 2018–23*, and is aligned with Outcome 1 and Program 1.1 in the ACIC's *Portfolio Budget Statements 2019–20*, as shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Outcome and program framework

Strategic plan		
Corporate plan		
Portfolio budget statements		
<p>Approach</p> <p>We connect, discover and understand to improve the national ability to respond to crime impacting Australia</p>	<p>Purpose/Outcome 1</p> <p>The purpose of the ACIC is to 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.</p>	<p>Program 1.1 Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission</p> <p>The ACIC will improve the national ability to respond to crime affecting Australia through the discovery and understanding of new and emerging crime threats—working with and connecting partners to build the picture of crime impacting Australia. The ACIC will respond to serious and organised crime threats by developing new prevention and disruption strategies that disable or dismantle criminal groups through collaborative enforcement, as well as informing and influencing regulations, policy or legislative responses that make Australia safe from crime threats. The ACIC will contribute to or lead nationally coordinated actions and activities through board-approved special investigations, special intelligence operations and joint task forces. The ACIC will provide high-quality national policing knowledge and information systems, and services that support the Australian policing community and will ensure controlled access to appropriate information, including by accredited third parties in relation to criminal history checks.</p>

Performance measurement

Our performance in achieving our purpose is measured against detailed criteria set out on page 22 of the *Corporate Plan 2019–20* and page 90 of the *Portfolio Budget Statements 2019–20*.

Measures

The performance measures in the ACIC’s two key planning documents are aligned, as shown in Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.2: Performance measurement framework

Corporate plan		
Portfolio budget statements		
Approach	Performance criteria	Forecast performance
<p>DISCOVER</p> <p>We build the picture of crime impacting Australia by collecting and combining information to discover new areas of national focus.</p>	<p>The picture of crime impacting Australia is improving because the ACIC is discovering crime threats, vulnerabilities, patterns, methods and trends previously unknown.</p>	<p>The ACIC collects qualitative and quantitative performance data.</p> <p>The ACIC monitors and analyses trends in quantitative data against relevant performance criteria, where appropriate, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ comparative statistics on information and intelligence systems and services availability, usage and support levels;
<p>UNDERSTAND</p> <p>We improve our understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia by undertaking analysis to influence a better response.</p>	<p>The understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia is increasingly more comprehensive, integrated and relevant.</p> <p>The understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia is increasingly used to influence strategies and responses to crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ demonstrated delivery and implementation of planned systems and services that satisfy stakeholders and users; ▶ comparative statistics on volume and breadth of intelligence shared;
<p>RESPOND</p> <p>We improve the national ability to prevent and disrupt crime and protect the community.</p>	<p>The ACIC better informs and influences collaborative efforts to harden the environment against crime.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ACIC partners are better informed and enabled to undertake policing and community safeguarding activities through access to national information systems and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ the level and types of the ACIC’s activities to discover and understand crime impacting Australia; ▶ the level, types and results of the ACIC’s responses to disrupting serious and organised crime; and ▶ annual stakeholder survey results that form an overall assessment against the performance criteria.
<p>CONNECT</p> <p>We help our partners by: providing them with systems and services; sharing criminal intelligence and information, policing and other relevant information; and connecting partners to us and each other.</p>	<p>Existing ACIC systems and services are accessible, used and reliable.</p> <p>Through effective collaboration, enable the delivery and implementation of new and enhanced ACIC systems and services that satisfy the needs of stakeholders and users.</p> <p>The ACIC is sharing increasing volume, breadth and formats (mediums, platforms) of criminal intelligence and information, police information, and other relevant information.</p>	

Results

These annual performance statements begin with an analysis of the ACIC's performance across the performance measures for 2019–20, then provide detailed results against each of the nine criteria set out in the corporate plan and portfolio budget statements.

The information reported in these statements does not include our classified achievements. Our performance at a classified level is reported to the ACIC Board.

For statistical results, we include up to five years of data, where available, to enable comparative assessment of performance.

The result against each performance criterion is summarised at a glance using the following symbols.



Met



Partially met



Not met

Analysis of performance against purpose

In 2019–20, the ACIC fully met eight performance criteria and partially met one. This is a particularly pleasing result given the significant impact of COVID-19 on our work and demonstrates that we are achieving our purpose to discover, understand and respond to current and emerging crime, and to connect police and law enforcement to information through our national systems.

Overall stakeholder satisfaction with the ACIC's performance in meeting their needs was 7.0 out of 10. This reflects an increase of 1 percentage point from 2019 levels (6.9 out of 10), 4 percentage points from 2018 levels (6.6 out of 10) and 2 percentage points from 2017 levels (6.8 out of 10).

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The ACIC was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with staff being forced to commence working from home in a very short space of time. Our IT service area was able to have ACIC staff working remotely within days, allowing our work to continue relatively unimpeded.

We responded to the call to release staff to work in areas of government with frontline needs and also increased our strategic intelligence capability to deliver timely insights into areas of the government response that were open to criminal exploitation. We collected and released 87 tactical intelligence reports relating to COVID-19 and 33 analytical assessments of the impact of COVID-19 on serious and organised crime.

The feature on page 28 provides a detailed overview of the work we have done to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that this work will continue while the pandemic continues.

COVID-19 has forced the cessation of some activities—such as large group information-sharing sessions and training—and where possible we have transitioned to online or virtual delivery. It has also had a significant negative impact on our revenue received from the National Police Checking Service (NPCS).

NPCS revenue is used to pay for the delivery and operation of current national policing information systems and services, and the delivery of new systems and services for the law enforcement community. The number of nationally coordinated criminal history checks conducted through ACIC systems rose by 0.1 per cent this year, with check volumes and revenue reducing significantly from March 2020.

As a consequence, we have had and will continue to have detailed discussions with the ACIC Board about priority investments in national policing information systems going forward. The National Criminal Intelligence System (NCIS) and the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) NextGen remain priority projects.

Criminal intelligence delivery

We met our performance metrics in relation to the discovery of crime threats and vulnerabilities that were previously unknown. We doubled our discovery of previously unknown criminals and continued our efforts to identify and designate criminal enterprises at the Australian Priority Organisation Target (APOT) level. The bar for entry to the APOT list is getting higher as we refine our approach to ensure that we are focusing only on the most significant threats facing Australia. For this reason, we are adding only small numbers to the APOT list each year, but this does not reflect poor performance: it is in fact right where it should be.

We have generated strategic intelligence insights across the ACIC Board's priority crime areas, and stakeholder feedback in relation to our intelligence work has been particularly pleasing. It reflects a deliberate decision that we have taken to focus on our niche role in supporting partners operationally and using insights gained from operational activities to generate strategic intelligence insights. As a consequence, we are receiving less criticism from partners about overstepping our role. The main feedback we now receive is that partners want more intelligence products than we produce. This can be difficult to address as the number of products is directly related to our capacity to collect and analyse information.

Our National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program continues to deliver monitoring and reporting of drug consumption across Australia. This program is internationally recognised as being world's best practice. We have delivered 10 reports and have received funding to deliver an additional 11 reports over the next four years. We leveraged our wastewater program and funded the University of Queensland and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to determine whether the SARS-CoV-2 virus could be detected in wastewater. The virus was detected and the results were widely reported internationally and to Australian Government and state and territory stakeholders.

A further benefit of the longitudinal data we are collecting through the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program was our comparison of consumption data obtained through wastewater analysis and data from our Illicit Drug Data Report to determine whether significant seizures of illicit drugs can have an impact on the consumption of illicit drugs. The two markets selected for initial analysis were the methylamphetamine and cocaine markets. In both cases it was revealed that large seizures can have a tangible short-term impact by reducing consumption in the jurisdiction where the seizure occurred, and sometimes in other jurisdictions, for several months. Police partners are actively using the information and insights we are generating to support their local investigative strategies.

In December 2019, we worked closely with the Department of Home Affairs to progress amendments to the ACC Act to streamline the process by which the ACIC Board authorises the ACIC to undertake special operations or investigations in relation to serious and organised crime.

The amendments also confirmed the validity of existing special operation and special investigation determinations, ensuring that the ACIC could continue to effectively fulfil its statutory functions and actively contribute to a safer and more secure Australia. This provides a strong basis for us to continue to deliver our purpose and meet our performance metrics.

National policing information systems and services

We met board-agreed benchmarks for availability across all of our national policing information systems and services and continued to implement system improvements as needed. Our stakeholder survey results demonstrate that the police partners are satisfied with our information systems and find them useful.

We remain disappointed by the low stakeholder survey results for our ability to develop and deliver enhancements to policing information systems and the extent to which the systems meet the needs of stakeholder organisations. The ACIC created business hubs to address gaps in how we engage with and deliver services to internal and external stakeholders, clients and partners. These were established during 2019–20 and we expect that they will support engagement with stakeholders in the development and delivery of information systems that meet stakeholder needs.

During 2019–20, significant work occurred to progress the NCIS program. NCIS will be a whole-of-government capability which will give Australia’s law enforcement and intelligence agencies the first truly national and unified picture of criminal activity. It will improve community safety by providing frontline law enforcement with a secure and trusted information-sharing platform, enabling jurisdictions to share criminal information and intelligence. NCIS will improve the law enforcement and intelligence community’s ability to work together across jurisdictions to achieve common outcomes. The NCIS program will deliver core capability by December 2020.

National Police Checking Service


We continue to facilitate the NPCS, although the volume of checks submitted has been impacted by the reduction in employment across Australia as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19.

In reviewing the timeframes for processing checks, we are disappointed that the service levels agreed with our police partners for standard and urgent checks are not being met. This is a measure that we share with our police partners; it reflects the occasions (approximately 30 per cent of checks) on which a potential match is referred to relevant jurisdictions for confirmation and a result is returned, which can in some cases be a fairly complicated process.

Overall, we assess that we met our purpose with demonstrated achievement of the majority of our performance measures. We are implementing ways to enhance the NPCS and improve delivery to meet current and future needs; this includes implementing critical updates and enhancements to the NPCS Support System and assessing the feasibility of the ACIC’s undertaking matching and vetting functions for the delivery of checks.

Discover

We build the picture of crime impacting Australia by collecting and combining information to discover new areas of national focus.

Performance criterion	Result
<p>Discover 1</p> <p>The picture of crime impacting Australia is improving because the ACIC is discovering crime threats, vulnerabilities, patterns, methods and trends previously unknown.</p>	

Achievements

By discovering and sharing intelligence on previously unknown threats, we are contributing to national understanding so that we and our partners can better respond to crime impacting Australia and make Australia safer.

Identifying new threats

During 2019–20, our intelligence gathering and analysis led to the identification and understanding of new criminal methodologies and the discovery and disruption of previously unknown criminal threats to Australia.

For example:

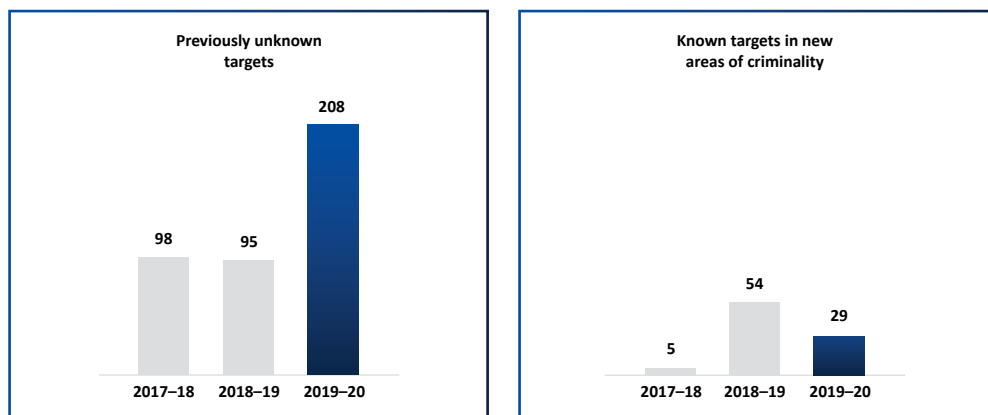
- ▶ The ACIC utilised knowledge gained from coercive hearings into insider threats within the bookmaking sector to obtain unique insights into vulnerabilities within domestic bookmakers' processes and wider risks to the corporate bookmaking sector.
- ▶ We identified the complicit involvement of business owners linked to a corrupt registered migration agent, providing insights to the vulnerabilities and methodologies of the agent and other, complicit migration agents.
- ▶ An investigation was conducted into cross-border trafficking of firearms. Our analysis of intelligence indicated that the suspect and associates were involved in the theft and trafficking of firearms between Tasmania and Victoria, in conjunction with trafficking of methylamphetamine.

Efforts such as these have strengthened our relationships and collaboration with domestic and international partner agencies, enhancing the ACIC's ability to identify and leverage strategic opportunities to create a more hostile environment for transnational serious and organised crime impacting Australia.

Identifying criminal targets

In addition to the 208 previously unknown criminal targets identified in 2019–20, 29 previously known targets with involvement in new areas of criminality were identified, as shown in Figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3: Criminal targets identified



Note: The definition for this measure was expanded in 2017–18 and equivalent data for prior periods is not comparable.

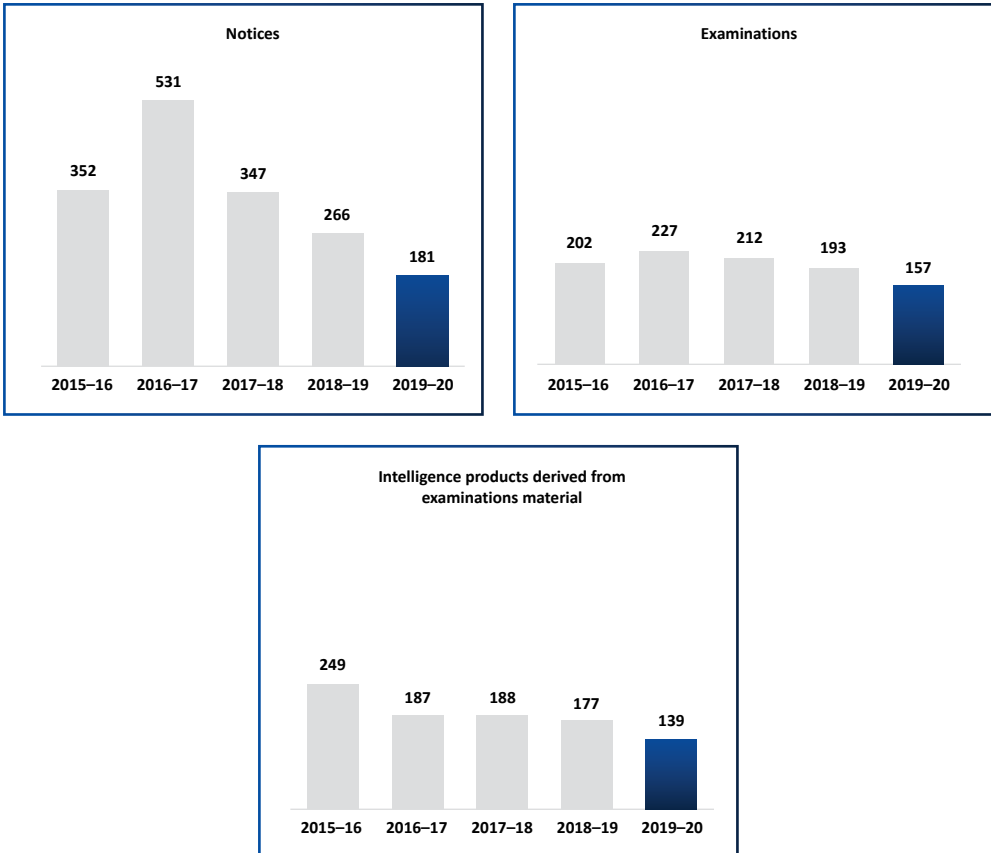
The APOT strategy is an ACIC-led initiative focused on identifying, assessing, designating and coordinating operational responses to the transnational serious and organised crime targets that pose the greatest threat to Australia’s interests. The intent of the strategy is to improve understanding and facilitate disruption, in collaboration with our domestic and international law enforcement and intelligence partners within local, regional and global contexts, to enhance community safety in Australia.

In 2019–20, we assessed a range of targets across the transnational serious and organised crime environment, resulting in the addition of six new targets to the APOT list.

Using coercive powers

We use coercive powers in special operations and special investigations to discover new information about serious and organised crime, by conducting examinations and issuing notices to produce documents or items. When it is lawful to do so, we share with partners our intelligence products containing discoveries and any understanding gained through the use of coercive powers.

We report our use of coercive powers to support accountability and transparency. However, we do not provide a performance benchmark such as data on the historical averages for examinations and notices. A benchmark for comparison could create the impression that the use of coercive powers is driven by targets, when in fact the ACIC uses the powers when it is expedient to do so. Results of this work are shown in Figure 2.4.

Figure 2.4: Notices, examinations and intelligence products derived from examinations material

Stakeholder survey results

'The transformation of the ACIC to be operationally agile and move closer to the cutting edge of significant criminality affecting Australia in the past 12 months has been excellent.'—Australian Government partner, 2020 Stakeholder Survey

Table 2.1: Stakeholder survey results—Discover 1

Survey statement	Proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed			
	2019-20	Change	2018-19	2017-18
ACIC provides information and intelligence on changes in the crime environment (such as new crime threats, methods, trends and patterns)	85%	+4	81%	78%

FEATURE:

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic



We produced numerous intelligence reports and assessments relating to COVID-19.

Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates our agility and ability to respond to changing operational circumstances while continuing to achieve our priorities.

The ACIC responded to the pandemic by providing infrastructure to support staff to work from home. We also made staff available to be redeployed to Home Affairs to support the frontline response.

Operationally, we provided analytical support to directly assist the frontline response. We assisted with advanced analytics at the request of local partners, to help map the spread of the virus and enable fully informed tactical decisions. This supported local partners to manage international arrivals and assist with contact tracing efforts.

We also harnessed the skill of our intelligence analysts to increase our outputs in response to the pandemic, producing numerous intelligence reports and assessments relating to COVID-19.

These intelligence reports and assessments included analysis of the increased threat from counterfeit pharmaceuticals and medical equipment during the pandemic and the impact of COVID-19 on domestic illicit drug markets. We also generated intelligence on illicit drug consumption during the lockdown period of the pandemic. Our products assisted policy and operational discussions in various Australian Government departments.

We produced intelligence reports to help understand cybercriminal behaviour during the pandemic, including emerging ransomware threats, SMS phishing campaigns, mobile malware, and online criminal infrastructure services on the dark web.

We also used our intelligence holdings to develop an assessment of the serious and organised fraud targeting key Australian Government programs responding to COVID-19. This assessment enabled us to target criminal exploitation of COVID-19 government stimulus measures.

In addition, we leveraged our globally recognised National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program and funded the University of Queensland and CSIRO to determine whether the SARS-CoV-2 virus could be detected in wastewater. The virus was detected and the results have been widely reported internationally and to federal, state and territory stakeholders.

The ACIC stakeholder survey report found that stakeholders 'were very impressed at the timely provision and quality of the ACIC's COVID-related intelligence products and felt that this team had gone "above and beyond"'.

In the stakeholder survey, a federal agency partner said, 'The pivot to COVID intelligence is the standout'.

Understand

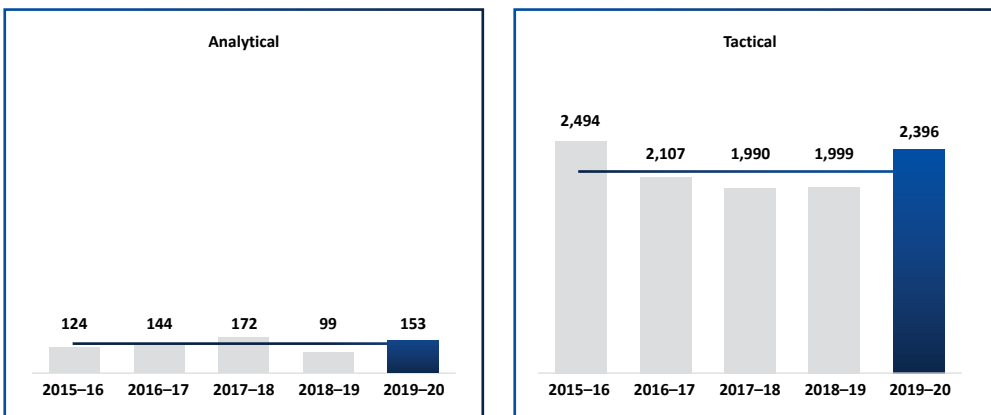
We improve our understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia by undertaking analysis to influence a better response.

Performance criterion	Result
Understand 1 The understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia is increasingly more comprehensive, integrated and relevant.	✓

Achievements

We collected criminal intelligence and combined it with information and intelligence from partner agencies to create and share a comprehensive national picture of criminality in Australia. Figures 2.5 and 2.6 show the numbers of unique products that we finalised.

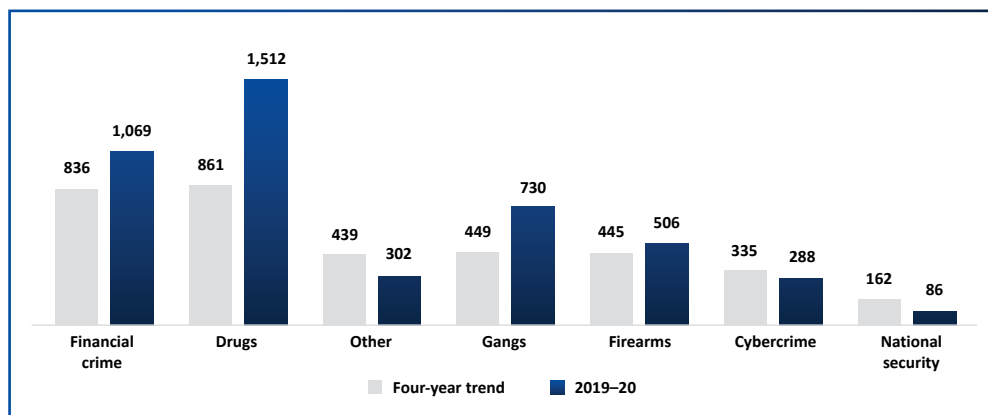
Figure 2.5: Analytical and tactical intelligence products finalised



Note: The trendline represents the four-year historical average.

The ACIC developed a range of intelligence products against all board-agreed priority crime themes. The totals in Figure 2.6 represent the numbers of intelligence products based on their priority crime themes. As some products relate to multiple priority categories, the total of these categories is higher than the overall number of unique intelligence products.

Figure 2.6: Intelligence products focused on priority crime themes



Note: Work was undertaken in 2018–19 and 2019–20 to improve the capture of products’ priority crime themes within the performance database. As a result, products which had been recorded as ‘other’ but were in fact related to an identified priority crime theme were assigned to the relevant theme. Therefore, the number of ‘other’ products has declined. Intelligence products related to a board-agreed priority crime theme but outside the categories outlined continue to be captured as ‘other’.

Highest risk serious and organised crime

We maintained the APOT list and jurisdictional Regional Priority Organisation Target lists, and delivered tactical and strategic insights to our partners on the activities of highest risk criminals. Intelligence reporting improved our understanding of key networks, transnational criminal business models, professional facilitators, and the exploitation of global migration systems.

For example, analysis of criminal enablers identified a number of significant transnational criminals impacting Australia who had engaged in ‘golden visa’ schemes in various countries to obtain citizenship or residency. These schemes, which have become cheaper and increasingly common since the global financial crisis, often provide opportunities to move assets to jurisdictions with opaque financial systems.

Financial crime

We produced a wide range of intelligence products relating to illicit finance and the laundering of proceeds of crime to support the agency’s stakeholders. The products cover topics such as new and emerging methodologies to launder money—including cryptocurrency—and identify new individuals potentially engaged in this criminal activity domestically and internationally.

In 2019–20, the ACIC contributed significantly to Australia’s understanding of new and emerging money laundering methodologies. We utilised our unique powers to collect intelligence which has contributed to domestic and international operations. The ACIC also led the Serious Financial Crime Taskforce Fusion Team, which targeted tax evasion and criminal exploitation of government stimulus measures related to COVID-19.

Cybercrime

In 2019–20, the ACIC cybercrime intelligence team based at the Australian Cyber Security Centre discovered and prioritised cybercrime threats to Australia, understood the criminal networks behind those threats, and supported Australian Government response strategies by working closely with law enforcement, intelligence and industry security partners in Australia and internationally.

The ACIC produced intelligence reporting to improve the understanding of cybercriminal behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic, including emerging ransomware threats, SMS phishing campaigns, mobile malware, and online criminal infrastructure services on the dark web.

We also produced intelligence to improve understanding of business email compromise scams; malware; anonymity features in cryptocurrencies; the threat of ransomware to Australian businesses; and cybercriminal exploitation of government systems.

We worked with domestic and international partners to identify cybercriminals who purchased access to Australian networks on dark web marketplaces to facilitate fraud and cybercrime activities. We identified a number of significant cybercriminals operating in or targeting Australia and disseminated that intelligence to law enforcement agencies.

Our participation in the 2019 Cyber War Games, on the theme of ‘it’s a good day to be a bad guy’, allowed for interactions and sharing between government agencies and private organisations with interests in cyber security.

Illicit drugs

We produced intelligence products to improve understanding of illicit drug consumption during the period of the COVID 19 pandemic and the resultant national restrictions; consumption of pharmaceutical opioids; trends in the Australian methylamphetamine and related precursor market; the threat posed by counterfeit pharmaceuticals; and the domestic manufacture of drugs for sale on the dark web.

We completed two assessments which compared data from our National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program with data from our Illicit Drug Data Report to determine whether significant seizures of illicit drugs can have an impact on the consumption of illicit drugs. The two markets selected for initial analysis were the methylamphetamine and cocaine markets. In both cases it was revealed that large seizures can have a tangible short-term impact by reducing consumption in the jurisdiction where the seizure occurred, and sometimes in other jurisdictions, for several months.

The ‘ACIC hosts conference to combat pharmaceutical opioid threat’ feature on page 69 provides information on the pharmaceutical opioid threat in Australia.

Gangs

We used our coercive powers to source information relevant to the Outlaw Motor Cycle Gangs special operation, which targets outlaw motor cycle gang (OMCG) members involved in drug and firearm trafficking, violence, corruption, fraud and money laundering.

Members of the Australian Gangs Intelligence Coordination Centre (AGICC) presented at international events in 2019 and 2020, including in Thailand, New Zealand and the Netherlands. These presentations outlined the regional OMCG threat, particularly in South-East Asia and the Pacific, push–pull factors relevant to the region, and the risks and/or effectiveness of a range of disruption methods. Contributing to collaborative international efforts to combat gangs continues to be a key strategy in Australia’s effort to reduce the threat posed by transnational OMCG networks.

Illicit firearms

We produced intelligence to improve understanding of firearms supply methodologies used by serious and organised crime groups in Australia, and systemic vulnerabilities the groups are exploiting; the illicit manufacture of handguns; and the role of firearms trace analysis in determining the means by which firearms are diverted to the illicit market.

An assessment was completed of a significant national vulnerability that is being exploited by criminally minded firearms dealers to divert multiple firearms to the illicit market. The assessment was widely shared across Australia; informed, and was informed by, successful operational activity in a number of jurisdictions; and contributed to discussions concerning procedural and regulatory reform.

Other criminal threats to Australia

We produced intelligence to identify and improve understanding of criminal threats to Australia such as threats to national security; sports integrity risks, including links between sports betting and serious and organised crime; visa and migration fraud; the organised sexual exploitation of children; and emerging threats from the criminal encrypted communications market.

The ACIC obtained intelligence on a major illicit tobacco network and its money laundering activities and links with Middle Eastern serious and organised crime groups. The ACIC's intelligence supported disruption activities that hampered the network leader's ability to operate, which led the network leader to discontinue involvement in the illicit tobacco market.

Stakeholder survey results

'The ACIC has continued to provide high-quality intelligence products across a wide spectrum of threats.'—International partner, 2020 Stakeholder Survey

'The ACIC has transformed itself in the past couple of years to provide more unique insights and intelligence. The transition away from policing activities into a more informed national and international-led role has provided significantly more value than simply replicating the work of policing agencies.'—Australian Government partner, 2020 Stakeholder Survey

Table 2.2: Stakeholder survey results—Understand 1

Survey statement	Proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed			
	2019–20	Change	2018–19	2017–18
ACIC intelligence products provide a comprehensive and relevant understanding of crime impacting Australia	74%	+5	69%	75%

Understand (continued)

Performance criterion	Result
<p>Understand 2</p> <p>The understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia is increasingly used to influence strategies and responses to crime.</p>	

Achievements

Building understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia and influencing strategies and responses to crime are core elements of achieving our vision of a safer Australia. The ACIC produces intelligence, shares intelligence with partners and participates in multiagency task forces. These collaborative actions support partners and improve our collective ability to make Australia safer.

Serious and organised crime risk assessment

In late 2019, the ACIC developed a detailed assessment of serious and organised crime risks posed to Australia. This assessment provides a threat, harm and overall risk rating for a range of crime types and markets, along with an outlook for the next three years. This detailed intelligence product allows state and federal agencies to better target and prioritise crime threats to Australia to maximise the impact of policing and intelligence activities and better disrupt criminal syndicates.

Wastewater drug monitoring

In 2019–20, data derived from the ACIC’s National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program was used by two state police forces to inform and justify local investigative strategies and to better understand the relationships between drug consumption and certain other types of crime. Their analysis included a focus on licit and illegal drugs and assisted them to confirm previously suspected relationships between drug use and crime, exploring potential factors contributing to community harm.

The methods by which the ACIC is using its national wastewater program to inform and influence government and public and private sector decision-making and reporting are internationally recognised as being world best practice. This was the subject of an ACIC presentation to an international conference in China in October 2019 that led to the ACIC and its Australian partners being nominated to host the next conference in October 2021. Partnerships developed by the ACIC with academic institutions and CSIRO have been a force multiplier in this area.

Cybercrime

In the second half of 2019, the Australian Cyber Security Centre invited the ACIC to use its unique expertise in crime scripting to facilitate development of the Australian Government’s response to cybercrime threats impacting the financial sector. The ACIC’s cybercrime intelligence team led a multi-day crime-scripting program with representatives from federal government and private financial institutions, resulting in significant enhancements in how these stakeholders work together to target and disrupt cybercriminals engaged in malware development and deployment.

International collaboration

The ACIC’s involvement overseas includes long-term and short-term deployments to international partner agencies. Joint operations with overseas partners to help us to prevent offshore serious and organised crime threats targeting Australia extended our international engagement.

During 2019–20, deployees supported a range of activities, including:

- ▶ enhancing the national understanding of Australian gangs and their international networks
- ▶ improving the national understanding of visa and migration fraud
- ▶ identifying Australians engaged in money laundering
- ▶ aiding disruption of the international flow of money, drugs and precursors
- ▶ supporting the disruption of international drug traffickers utilising previously unseen methodologies
- ▶ uncovering real-world identities of cybercriminals.

The ACIC continued to facilitate Dare-to-Share (DTS) sessions in the first half of 2019–20 (the sessions were cancelled in the second half of the financial year due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

DTS provides an opportunity for collaboration between foreign law enforcement and intelligence community members based in Australia and their Australian counterparts. The DTS group currently has more than 40 members, representing more than 20 countries.

At each session, the ACIC, Australian Border Force, Australian Federal Police and Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre present information on the latest trends, developments and products relevant to the home agencies of the foreign representatives. The sessions enable the exchange of information and best practice, community and network building, and potential for bilateral or multilateral cooperation. To date, the DTS sessions have delivered multiple international (operational and strategic) collaboration opportunities for our agency.

Stakeholder survey results

Table 2.3: Stakeholder survey results—Understand 2

Survey statement	Proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed			
	2019–20	Change	2018–19	2017–18
ACIC intelligence and information inform policy/legal response to criminal activity threatening Australia ^a	84%	+8	76%	75%
ACIC intelligence products on crime impacting Australia influence their approach to tackling crime	67%	–	67%	64%

^a This survey statement is used in the performance results for two criteria, Understand 2 and Respond 1, as they both relate to guiding strategies and preventative responses.

FEATURE:

Data confirms that large seizures impact methylamphetamine consumption



Methylamphetamine is the most highly consumed illicit substance among those monitored by the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program.

We compare data from the ACIC's National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program with other indicators on illicit drugs to understand the relationship between supply and demand within the Australian methylamphetamine market.

Methylamphetamine is the most highly consumed illicit substance among those monitored by the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program. Over the past five years, the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program's reports have shown that the market for methylamphetamine in Australia is robust, resilient and steadily increasing.

Using data derived by the program, we determined that large seizures of methylamphetamine have a noticeable short-term impact on methylamphetamine consumption in Australia.

In particular, there is a pattern of decline in capital city consumption following one or more significant seizures. Where a multi-hundred-kilogram seizure occurs, the data shows a significant decrease in consumption over time and across jurisdictions. The data demonstrates a broad national trend whereby large methylamphetamine seizures have a significant but temporary impact on average capital city consumption.

Although illicit drugs are seized across the nation and at Australia's borders, the jurisdiction in which a seizure occurs is not necessarily the destination market for the drugs. It is likely that the drugs seized in large wholesale methylamphetamine seizures are destined for several retail markets.


Supply reduction appears most effective when directed towards disrupting the wholesale methylamphetamine market. The market is made up of imported methylamphetamine as well as methylamphetamine produced in concealed domestic laboratories. Notably, the report shows that the scale of domestic production is probably higher than previously understood.

The data demonstrates that significant market disruptions follow large seizures. This has improved our understanding of how the methylamphetamine market is impacting Australia. A long-term disruption to the market requires continual interruptions, achieved through targeted drug seizures. This will have the greatest effect on reducing methylamphetamine consumption.

These findings demonstrate how we improve our understanding of the picture of crime impacting Australia by undertaking analysis, to guide a better response.

Respond

We improve the national ability to prevent and disrupt crime and protect the community.

Performance criterion	Result
Respond 1 The ACIC better informs and influences collaborative efforts to harden the environment against crime.	

Achievements

We measure our performance against this criterion through our achievements relating to informing partners and hardening the environment against crime, and instances where we have contributed to preventing crime.

The primary focus of our work is to protect the community from the threat of transnational serious and organised crime. To reduce the impact of transnational serious and organised crime on Australia, the ACIC uses its specialist capabilities and powers to collect, assess and distribute actionable intelligence to law enforcement and intelligence partners, both domestically and overseas. In support of these efforts, the ACIC actively participates in the development, implementation and evaluation of policy and legislation relating to agency powers and functions, emerging issues and trends, and oversight of the broader intelligence and law enforcement community.

National policy

During 2019–20, the ACIC provided a number of submissions to the Comprehensive Review of the Legal Framework Governing the National Intelligence Community, and worked with the Attorney-General's Department and the broader Home Affairs portfolio to collaboratively develop the Australian Government response. The recommendations of the review and the government response are expected to be publicly released in August 2020.

In 2019–20, the ACIC lodged a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security review of the mandatory data retention regime. The submission outlined the effectiveness of the existing data retention regime in balancing the ACIC's vital need for timely and consistent access to telecommunications data with the need for firm accountability mechanisms to ensure that access remains proportionate and transparent.

Legislation

In 2019, the ACIC worked with the Department of Home Affairs to develop amendments to the ACC Act to streamline the process by which the ACIC Board authorises the ACIC to undertake special operations or investigations in relation to serious and organised crime. These amendments also confirmed the validity of existing special operation and special investigation determinations, ensuring that the ACIC could continue to effectively fulfil its statutory functions and actively contribute to a safer and more secure Australia.

In November 2019, the ACIC lodged a submission to the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor’s review of the *Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Act 2018*. Through its submission, the ACIC addressed the agency’s implementation and use of powers under the Act; the persistent threat environment in which intelligence and law enforcement agencies operate; and the critical need to ensure that the ACIC’s search and surveillance powers in the cyber domain are equivalent to its existing powers in the physical domain.

In February 2020, the ACIC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) appeared at a public hearing of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee inquiry into the Transport Security Amendment (Serious Crime) Bill 2019. At the hearing, the CEO identified significant threats to Australia’s border environments from serious and organised crime, including at airports, seaports and offshore facilities. The CEO also discussed the potential use of ACIC criminal intelligence in background checking for the aviation and maritime security identification card schemes, noting the residual risk posed by card holders who may not have serious criminal convictions but have been identified as having links to serious and organised crime groups.

Stakeholder survey results


‘The ACIC has been providing intelligence in a timely matter so we can act on the information asap.’—State policing partner, 2020 Stakeholder Survey

Table 2.4: Stakeholder survey results—Respond 1

Survey statement	Proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed			
	2019–20	Change	2018–19	2017–18
ACIC intelligence and information inform policy/legal response to criminal activity threatening Australia ^a	84%	+8	76%	75%

a This survey statement is used in the performance results for two criteria, Understand 2 and Respond 1, as they both relate to guiding strategies and preventative responses.

Respond (continued)

Performance criterion	Result
Respond 2 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.	

Achievements

We measure our performance against this criterion in terms of the year's statistics on entities disrupted; apprehensions and convictions; seizures and confiscations of drugs and cash; and tax assessments and recoveries of assets. We also include stakeholder survey results.

Disruptions

A disruption is assessed as 'severe' if it results in the complete disruption or dismantling of a crime entity and the cessation of its serious and/or organised crime activities. A 'significant' disruption achieves a significant impact but not the complete disruption or dismantling.

In 2019–20, the work of the ACIC contributed to 33 significant disruptions and one severe disruption (compared to the previous year's result of 27 significant disruptions and one severe disruption).

To achieve the complete dismantling of a crime entity or cessation of its serious and organised crime is exceptionally difficult, due to the large, complex and international networks many serious and organised criminal syndicates employ. In the past three years, the ACIC has contributed to three severe disruptions.

In 2019–20, our Australian law enforcement and offshore partners disrupted five APOT networks to the point that they are no longer considered APOT-level threats. Elements of a further 14 APOT networks were significantly disrupted, decreasing the overall threat of the criminal organisation but leaving it still able to operate at the APOT level.

No individuals designated as the head of an APOT organisation were arrested, compared to three in 2018–19 and four in 2017–18. This reflects a change in strategy, shifting focus from disrupting APOT individuals to disrupting the APOT organisations. While focusing on disrupting individuals has had success in the past, disrupting multiple elements of the APOT organisation has a much more significant and long-term disruptive effect.

The ACIC, together with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), investigated alleged proceeds of crime from illicit drug activities. Search warrants were executed resulting in an arrest and the seizure of methylamphetamine and a large sum of cash. It was determined the suspect was likely an upper level distributor of methylamphetamine for an organised crime syndicate. The arrest is likely to have a noticeable impact on the distribution activities of the syndicate.

The 'Joint efforts disrupt transnational syndicate distributing drugs to Australia' feature on page 48 provides a detailed case study of the ACIC's contribution to disrupting the highest level of serious and organised criminal activity in Australia.

Multiagency task force activities

The ACIC participates in a wide range of formal and informal task forces, including multiagency task forces approved by the ACIC Board.

Multiagency task forces involve a broad range of partners working together to disrupt criminal enterprises through intelligence-led responses. Partners may include representatives from law enforcement, the regulatory sector, peak bodies and the private sector. Our role in multiagency task forces ranges from leading or jointly coordinating task forces to supporting task forces led by partner agencies.

National Task Force Morpheus

National Task Force Morpheus is a joint law enforcement initiative through which all Australian state and territory police, the AFP National Anti-Gangs Squad, other Australian Government partners and New Zealand Police collaboratively target the highest threat OMCGs impacting Australia. Morpheus was approved by the ACIC Board in September 2014.

The task force takes coordinated multiagency action against the highest threat OMCGs, with a focus on cross-border serious criminal activity. The task force facilitates the development and implementation of joint response strategies to prevent, disrupt and dismantle OMCGs. These responses are overseen by a management group of senior officers from each participating agency. The head of the task force is currently drawn from the Queensland Police Service, supported by a deputy from the ACIC.

Morpheus adopts an intelligence-led approach to targeting high-threat OMCGs. This is facilitated by the AGICC, in close collaboration with Morpheus partner agencies. As part of this process, the maintenance of a National Gangs List (a secure, validated and nationally endorsed list of OMCG members) is a key focus of the AGICC. Intelligence produced by the AGICC informs response strategies and future initiatives to tackle OMCGs.

In 2019–20, the task force's achievements included:

- ▶ 2,393 arrests, summonses and court attendance notices and 5,590 charges
- ▶ seizure of 170 firearms and \$4.3 million in cash.

Vestigo Task Force

The ACIC leads the Transnational Criminal Intelligence Task Force (Vestigo Task Force), which provides a framework for enhanced collaboration and engagement with Australian and international partners to share information and intelligence.

Rather than consisting of a particular program of work, the Vestigo Task Force acts as an enabler for collaborative work across various investigations and operations. This means that the task force's results are incorporated within and reflected throughout the intelligence-led outcomes that we have achieved with partners, as described in these annual performance statements.

Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce

The Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce is led by the AFP and includes the ACIC and the Australian Taxation Office. The task force is an Australian Government initiative dedicated to taking the profit out of crime by targeting criminals and their assets derived from unexplained wealth. It was established in January 2011 to enhance the identification and pursuit of criminal wealth, where there is a link to a Commonwealth offence.

Our agency provides intelligence analysis and legal support, intelligence gathering, and strategic advice on illicit money flows impacting Australia, and helps to generate and prioritise criminal targets for proceeds of crime action.

Results achieved from ACIC referrals on financial matters are detailed in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5: Financial referrals to the Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce and other partners

Detail	Four-year historical average	2019–20
Referrals	20	9
Entities involved	137	68
Total value of offending (\$ million)	83.17	22.17

Serious Financial Crime Taskforce

The Serious Financial Crime Taskforce (SFCT) forms part of the Fraud and Anti-Corruption Centre led by the AFP. The SFCT brings together the knowledge, resources and experiences of federal law enforcement and regulatory agencies to identify and address serious and complex financial crimes.

The SFCT's remit is to target the serious financial crimes of the highest priority, with a specific focus on four key areas:

- ▶ cybercrime (technology-enabled crime) affecting the tax and superannuation systems
- ▶ offshore tax evasion
- ▶ illegal phoenix activity
- ▶ serious financial crime affecting the Australian Taxation Office administered measures of the *Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Act 2020*.

The SFCT focuses on conducting operations, collecting and sharing intelligence and identifying reform measures, with the aim of removing wealth from criminal activity, prosecuting facilitators and promoters of serious financial crime and deploying deterrent and preventative enforcement strategies.

The ACIC hosts the Financial Crime Fusion Centre—a critical component of the SFCT. By co-locating seconded members from participating agencies, we can leverage our coercive powers and criminal intelligence holdings, while simultaneously maximising collaboration for greater effectiveness.

Illicit Tobacco Taskforce

It is illegal to grow tobacco in Australia, and excise is payable on all legally imported tobacco products. The Illicit Tobacco Taskforce (ITTF) was established in July 2018 to protect Commonwealth revenue by proactively targeting, disrupting and dismantling serious actors and organised crime syndicates that deal in illicit tobacco.

The ITTF is led by the Australian Border Force and draws on the expertise and advanced capabilities of the Department of Home Affairs, the ACIC, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and the Australian Taxation Office. The ITTF has a full array of powers to effectively investigate, prosecute and dismantle international organised crime groups that are profiting from the illicit tobacco trade.

Our intelligence activities undertaken as part of the ITTF focused on:

- ▶ domestic manufacturing capabilities
- ▶ illicit tobacco importation and distribution and associated money laundering
- ▶ identification of source countries, capabilities and involvement of serious and organised crime groups.

In support of these priorities, 27 examinations were conducted during the period.

As a result of the ITTF's activities in 2019–20:

- ▶ ACIC members and ITTF partners jointly developed a strategic intelligence product on the impact of COVID-19 on the Australian illicit tobacco market.
- ▶ With the ITTF and Australian Border Force Joint Strike Teams, we conducted targeting of entities involved in illicit importation, facilitation and distribution to a Chinese illicit tobacco supplier, a Middle Eastern facilitator, and domestic financial facilitators.
- ▶ We developed operational intelligence products on a range of illicit tobacco activities in Australia, such as the impact of COVID-19 on localised product shortages and price spikes.
- ▶ We provided specialist capability support to ITTF operations on surveillance, telephone interception, controlled operations and surveillance device capabilities.

Phoenix Taskforce

The Phoenix Taskforce was established in 2014 to provide a whole-of-government approach to combating phoenix activity. It comprises 38 Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies, including the ACIC, the Australian Taxation Office, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The Phoenix Taskforce has developed sophisticated data-matching tools to identify, manage and monitor suspected illegal phoenix operators. The task force supports businesses who want to do the right thing and will deal firmly with those who choose to engage in illegal phoenix behaviour.

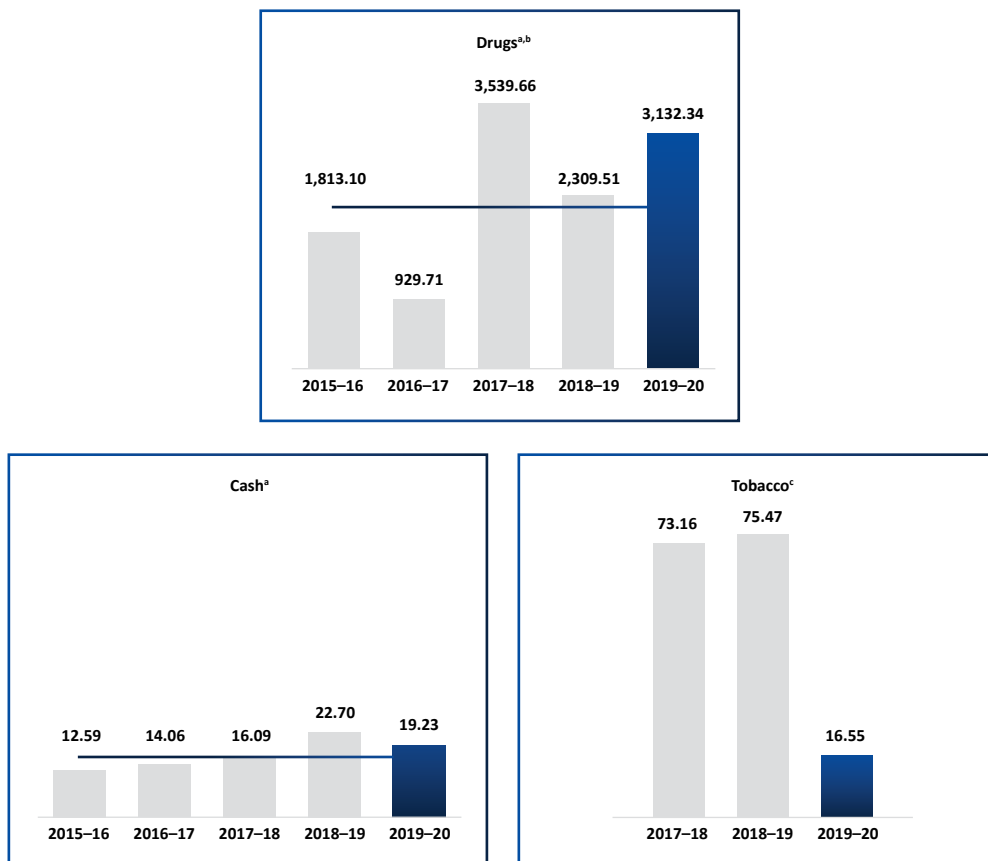
Joint organised crime task forces

The ACIC cooperates with joint organised crime task forces in Victoria, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland. These task forces investigate, collect intelligence on and disrupt high-risk entities, either domestically or offshore, to reduce the threat of high-risk targets operating regionally and impacting nationally.

Seizures

Figure 2.7 shows the total monetary value of illicit drugs and drug precursors, cash and tobacco seized by our national and international partners as a result of ACIC intelligence.

Figure 2.7: Drugs, cash and tobacco seized (\$ million)



- a The trendline represents the four-year historical average.
- b Estimated street values of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, based on drug price data contained in the *Illicit Drug Data Report 2017-18*.
- c Tracking of tobacco seizures commenced in 2017-18. The historical average trendline will be added from 2020-21. Tobacco excise has been estimated using rates provided on the Australian Taxation Office website.

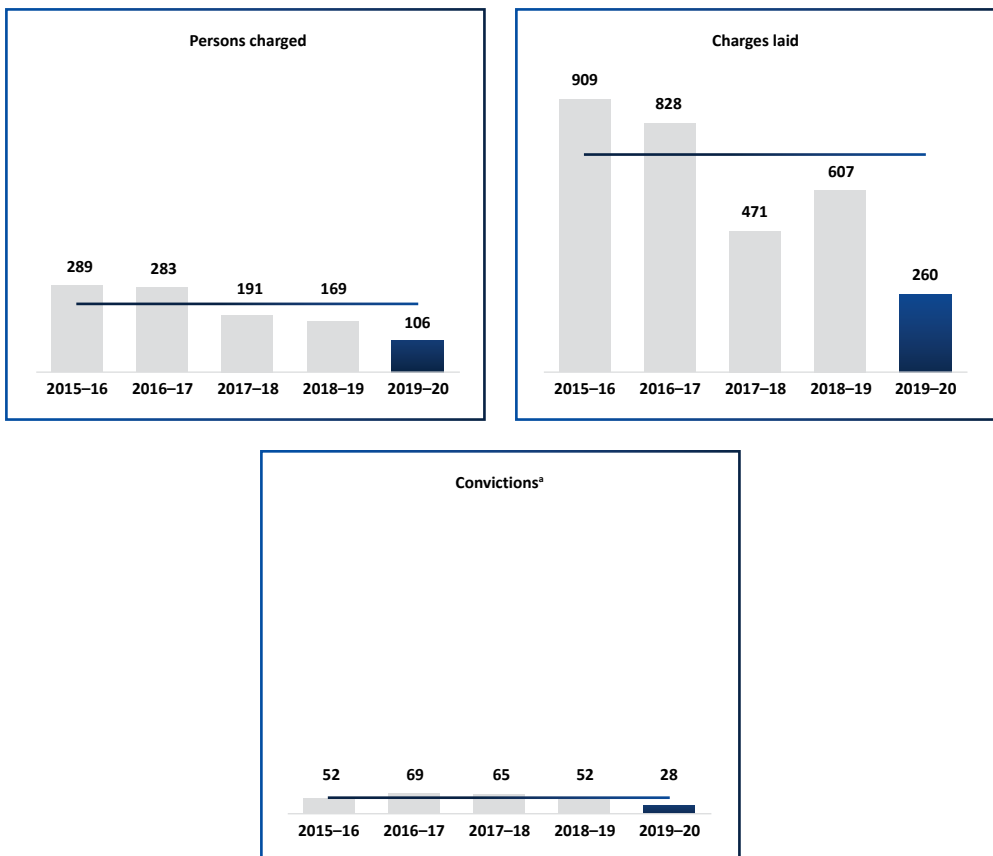
Arrests and convictions

As an intelligence agency, the ACIC is focusing its efforts on the development and sharing of intelligence information that supports resolution activities by our partners. Therefore, the declines in the numbers of charges laid, persons charged and convictions recorded are not unexpected, as our work has shifted away from resolution activities.

In order to prioritise performance measures that more clearly reflect the performance of the ACIC, we will not report on these numbers in future annual reports. However, they will continue to be reported in the ACIC Board's Chair annual report as required by section 61 of the ACC Act.

The numbers of charges laid, persons charged and convictions recorded give some indication of the disruptive impact of the ACIC's work, as these activities disrupt organised criminal activity. Figure 2.8 provides details of the numbers of people charged, charges laid and convictions achieved by our partners as a result of ACIC intelligence.

Figure 2.8: Persons charged, charges laid and convictions



^a Conviction results are based on sentencing during each financial year and can be related to charges in the current and previous financial years.

Note: The trendline represents the four-year historical average.


Stakeholder survey results

‘The AGICC’s sharing of information and liaison and assistance has been pivotal to our investigations and intelligence team.’—State policing partner, 2020 Stakeholder Survey

Table 2.6: Stakeholder survey results—Respond 2

Survey statement	Proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed			
	2019–20	Change	2018–19	2017–18
ACIC investigations collaborate with their organisation in the effective disruption of serious and organised criminals	67%	-2	69%	69%
ACIC investigations were of value or great value to them	95%	+1	94%	99%

Respond (continued)

Performance criterion	Result
<p>Respond 3</p> <p>ACIC partners are better informed and enabled to undertake policing and community safeguarding activities through access to national information systems and services.</p>	

Achievements

Our performance assessment for this criterion is driven by the results of our stakeholder survey. We also draw on data on system availability, service provision, service usage and service breadth, and measure data matches delivered through our frontline, biometric and forensic services.

In 2019–20, the ACIC undertook structural reform to enhance our ability to support our clients, partners and government, with a specific focus on stakeholder engagement, system and service sustainability, opportunities for improvement, project management and problem resolutions. At the forefront of this was the development of four business hubs that act as a single-entry point for internal and external clients and our partners, namely biometric/forensics, frontline systems, NPCS, and intelligence and corporate.

Services provided

Our frontline services enable police agencies to share essential policing information with each other in relation to people, vehicles, firearms and ballistics. This can assist them to undertake a broad range of community policing and criminal investigations. We also help police to solve crimes through our biometric services, including fingerprint and DNA systems. In addition, we provide services that assist police to identify missing persons, human remains and disaster victims.

Our protection services assist police to manage child offenders and identify child exploitation images. Our Court Portal enables police and courts across Australia to access orders in relation to domestic violence. We also provide access to nationally coordinated criminal history checks and cybercrime reporting.

Service enhancements

During 2019–20, the National Police Reference System (NPRS) Data Quality Project actively improved the quality of the data managed by Australian police services and provisioned to the NPRS, using a collaborative continuous improvement approach. Police partner agencies identify the data, records and issues of highest business value to them, and the ACIC bases its activities on those high-value items.

In late 2019, a number of policing information systems were retired as their functionality was transferred to other, more contemporary IT systems. They included the National Names Index, which was replaced by the NPRS, and the National Firearms Licensing and Registration System, which was replaced by the Australian Firearms Information Network (AFIN). These changes allowed for improved user interactions and enhanced software capabilities.

We assured our stakeholders that the NAFIS will be supported with contemporary technology until 2024, by commencing a project to refresh the hardware. The ACIC provided expert advice and training to approximately 150 NAFIS users across Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. The training was designed to improve partner agencies' understanding and knowledge of the system, aiming to increase the value that partners gain from utilising the system.

NAFIS NextGen is the planned new version of NAFIS. It will ensure that fingerprint identification capability used by all police partner agencies continues to be supported and will deliver process automation to increase efficiencies for partner agency staff. The ACIC hosted three high-level workshops to gather information on NAFIS NextGen requirements, with NAFIS practitioners from partner agencies. This helped in the development and submission of a NAFIS NextGen business case.

The NCIS Interim Solution was shut down in December 2019. It was a proof-of-concept system developed as a pilot for the full NCIS, and was not intended to be a production system. The data in the interim system became out of date and further updates were not feasible. The numbers of active users and searches conducted using the interim system declined in the final months before the system was shut down.

The ACIC is working towards having a production-ready version of NCIS available for policing agencies for operational assessment by the end of 2020, with police agencies progressively contributing more information by connecting NCIS to their frontline systems through 2021.

Positive data matches

With some of our services, we can capture the moment when a user makes a positive data match. Though this does not give full insight into the discoveries that our partners make when using the services we provide, it gives an indication of positive results from the system usage.

For all measurable services, the numbers of matches in 2019–20 is consistent with the historical average, as shown in Table 2.7.

Table 2.7: Positive data matches

Service type	System name	Four-year historical average		2019–20
Frontline	Australian Ballistic Information Network ^a	78	↔	77
Biometric and forensic	National Automated Fingerprint Identification System	92,162	↑	107,038
	National Criminal Investigation DNA Database	85,268	↑	111,393

↑ Result 5% or more above historical average

↓ Result 5% or more below historical average

↔ Result within 5% of historical average

a Because of Australia's gun control regulations and relatively low level of gun crime, ballistics matches are less common than fingerprint or DNA matches across multiple crime scenes.

Stakeholder survey results

Table 2.8: Stakeholder survey results—Respond 3

Survey statement	Proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed			
	2019–20	Change	2018–19	2017–18
ACIC information and intelligence services were valuable to the work of their organisation	89%	–	89%	92%
ACIC information and intelligence services and systems were of value, or of great value, to them or their business area	97%	+3	94%	91%
ACIC national policing and intelligence systems enabled them to do their jobs more effectively	87%	+8	79%	67%

FEATURE:

Joint efforts disrupt transnational syndicate distributing drugs to Australia

“ In August 2019, joint operations between the Australian Federal Police and our overseas counterpart resulted in the offshore seizure of 750 kilograms of MDMA from the target syndicate.

An ACIC operation on high-risk and emerging drugs has contributed to the disruption of a transnational syndicate dealing in large commercial quantities of illicit drugs, including the seizure of large quantities of MDMA in Australia and overseas.

In 2018, we deployed a high-risk and emerging drugs expert to assist an overseas counterpart in a joint investigation. The investigation led to the identification of suspects linked to a syndicate which was facilitating the importation of a commercial quantity of MDMA. In August 2019, joint operations between the Australian Federal Police and our overseas counterpart resulted in the offshore seizure of 750 kilograms of MDMA from the target syndicate.

In late 2019, Australian-based targets were identified seeking to purchase 150 kilograms of MDMA from the target syndicate. Six arrests were made by host nation authorities following the seizures of more than 250 kilograms of dangerous drugs and more than 20,000 litres of precursor chemicals. Investigations are ongoing, with further arrests anticipated.

The seizures and arrests resulted in a clear disruption of the transnational serious and organised crime syndicate and the commercial

importation of border-controlled drugs, particularly MDMA, to Australia.

The discovery of the target syndicate has directly delivered noticeable interference outcomes for Australian law enforcement. The extent to which the disruption of a globally significant MDMA network has directly impacted Australia will be monitored through our National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program.

The intelligence we delivered to our law enforcement partners, domestically and internationally, highlights the value of the ACIC's role in the disruption of internationally significant crime markets and transnational crime syndicates.

This demonstrates how we drive our investigations and intelligence activities by focusing on proactively discovering and targeting transnational serious and organised crime groups that impact Australia and supporting the development and implementation of offshore disruption strategies.

By responding to high-risk and emerging drugs, we improve our national ability to prevent and disrupt crime and protect the community.

Connect

We help our partners by: providing them with systems and services; sharing criminal intelligence and information, policing and other relevant information; and connecting partners to us and each other.

Performance criterion	Result
Connect 1 Existing ACIC systems and services are accessible, used and reliable.	✓

Achievements

We group our systems into broad service categories:

- ▶ **Frontline**—These systems enable police agencies to share essential policing information with each other in relation to people, vehicles, firearms and ballistics. This can assist them to undertake a broad range of community policing and criminal investigations.
- ▶ **Biometric and forensic**—These systems help police to solve crimes through our biometric services, including fingerprint and DNA systems, and assist police to identify missing persons, human remains and disaster victims.
- ▶ **Protection**—These systems assist police with finding information on domestic violence orders, managing child sex offenders and identifying child exploitation images.
- ▶ **Checking**—To protect the safety of the community, this system enables police agencies and ACIC-accredited bodies to request a nationally coordinated criminal history check to support organisations to make informed decisions about the suitability of applicants for employment and positions of trust.
- ▶ **Criminal intelligence**—These systems facilitate dissemination and sharing of criminal intelligence, including databases of intelligence holdings that can be accessed and analysed by approved users.

We measure our performance against this criterion by assessing:

- ▶ **system availability**—the proportion of time systems are available and providing reliable access to services (excluding scheduled outages)
- ▶ **service beneficiaries**—the range of agencies to which we provide services
- ▶ **service usage**—the number of users in partner agencies and the numbers of system searches and nationally coordinated criminal history checks
- ▶ **stakeholder survey results**—responses to specific questions related to system performance in our stakeholder survey.

Availability

System availability reporting provides the percentage of time systems were available, excluding scheduled outages. National availability is calculated based on user notifications of outages impacting multiple jurisdictions. As many of our systems are integrated or routed via partner agency systems, issues unrelated to our service can affect availability.

An agreed availability benchmark is developed by the ACIC Board for each of our frontline systems and other systems that directly support police operations, including police checks. Benchmarks are based on usage requirements.

Results against the availability benchmarks are set out in Table 2.9.

Table 2.9: System availability

Service type	System	Board-agreed benchmark	Historical average ^a		2019–20	
		(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)
Frontline	National Police Reference System	99.5	99.53	✓	99.64	✓
	National Firearms Identification Database	96.0	99.69	✓	99.84	✓
	Australian Ballistic Information Network	95.0	99.97	✓	100.00	✓
	Australian Firearms Information Network	n.a.	99.42	n.a.	99.93	n.a.
	National Vehicles of Interest System	99.0	99.89	✓	99.51	✓
Biometric and forensic	National Automated Fingerprint Identification System	99.4	99.68	✓	99.88	✓
	National Criminal Investigation DNA Database	99.0	99.60	✓	99.67	✓
	National Missing Persons and Victim System	96.0	99.84	✓	99.97	✓
Protection	National Child Offender System	99.5	99.57	✓	99.67	✓
	Child Exploitation Tracking System	96.0	99.95	✓	100.00	✓
Checking	National Police Checking Service/NPCS Support System ^b	99.0	98.54	×	99.65	✓
Criminal intelligence	Australian Law Enforcement Intelligence Network	n.a.	99.93	n.a.	99.23	n.a.
	Australian Criminal Intelligence Database ^c	n.a.	99.99	n.a.	99.23	n.a.
	National Target System	n.a.	99.96	n.a.	99.98	n.a.

✓ Benchmark met

× Benchmark not met

n.a. not applicable

a Historical averages are based on two to four years of data. This measure was not used uniformly across all systems in previous years, so we are still building up data for a full four-year historical trend on some systems.

b During 2017–18, two significant incidents affected National Police Checking Service/NPCS Support System availability, leading to 96.63% availability. This atypical result has lowered the four-year historical average to below the board-agreed benchmark of 99.00%.

c The Australian Criminal Intelligence Database system also hosts the Violent and Sexual Crime Database and Clandestine Laboratory Database.

Service beneficiaries

Our frontline, biometric and forensic, and criminal intelligence services are provided to all Australian police forces. Appropriate access is also available to some other agencies, including the Department of Home Affairs, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, the Department of Defence and state-based crime and corruption bodies.

Through the NPCS Support System, the NPCS administers access to nationally coordinated criminal history checks for ACIC-accredited bodies and Australian police agencies. The checks help organisations to make informed decisions about the suitability of applicants for things such as employment in paid or volunteer positions, Australian citizenship, work with children or vulnerable people, and various licensing and registration schemes. ACIC-accredited bodies include government agencies, private sector businesses and commercial businesses acting in a broker capacity; not-for-profit organisations; and screening units responsible for the assessment of people who apply to work with children or vulnerable people or under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

As a result of stricter contractual obligations and increased compliance activities, the number of bodies for whom checks were performed reduced by 19 accredited bodies during 2019–20. The total remained in line with the historical average, as shown in Table 2.10.

Table 2.10: Stakeholder bodies for whom criminal history checks were processed

Stakeholders	Four-year historical average		2019–20
Bodies for whom nationally coordinated criminal history checks were processed	195	↔	191

↔ Result within 5% of historical average

Our web-based Court Portal enables domestic violence orders in the NPRS to be shared between police and courts across Australia. In 2019–20, the system was searched 2,114 times.

Service users

Table 2.11 provides details of the numbers of users of our systems in 2019–20.

The Child Exploitation Tracking System is used by only a limited number of users. This is intentionally limited due to the nature of the work the system supports, to minimise the emotional impact on staff caused by explicit materials. As a result, the number of users is not an effective performance measure, and the system is not included in the table.

The decommissioning of the National Names Index has centralised names to the NPRS. The National Firearms Licensing and Registration System has been superseded by AFIN. The final police partner agency will be migrated to AFIN during 2020–21.

Table 2.11: Service users

Service type	System	Historical average ^a	2019–20	
Frontline	National Police Reference System	76,886	↓	54,636
	National Firearms Identification Database ^b	32	↑	82
	Australian Ballistic Information Network	113	↔	108
	Australian Firearms Information Network	608	↑	1,080
	National Vehicles of Interest System	9,833	↑	36,870
Biometric and forensic	National Automated Fingerprint Identification System	704	↔	696
	National Criminal Investigation DNA Database	168	↓	103
	National Missing Persons and Victim System	579	↑	876
Protection	National Child Offender System	1,920	↓	940
Criminal intelligence	Australian Law Enforcement Intelligence Network	4,464	↓	4,135
	Australian Criminal Intelligence Database ^c	2,394	↓	2,279
	National Target System	860	↑	1,012

↑ Result 5% or more above historical average

↓ Result 5% or more below historical average

↔ Result within 5% of historical average

a Historical averages are based on two to four years of data. This measure was not used uniformly across all systems in previous years; we are still building up data for a full four-year historical trend on the National Firearms Identification Database and Australian Firearms Information Network systems.

b The National Firearms Identification Database does not have an individual user login. User statistics are based on IP address.

c The Australian Criminal Intelligence Database system also hosts the Violent and Sexual Crime Database and Clandestine Laboratory Database.

Note: Totals represent either 'total' or 'active' users of each system, depending on which system statistics are available.

Searches

Results for numbers of searches were affected by transitions between systems in 2019–20.

The large increases in AFIN and National Firearms Identification Database (NFID) searches were expected, as users were transitioning to AFIN from the National Firearms Licensing and Registration System. In addition, the ACIC conducted a range of activities which contributed to increasing search numbers across these systems, including:

- ▶ a 'Firearm Systems Roadshow' which provided a user overview and promoted AFIN and NFID improvements
- ▶ technical enhancements to make the NFID more accessible
- ▶ the publication of NFID data on the ACIC's website, increasing access for firearm users.

The 'ACIC database assists New Zealand's firearm buyback scheme' feature on page 62 provides a case study of the ACIC's collaboration and contribution of specialist services to meet the needs of our New Zealand partners.

The ACIC is progressively integrating all police partners with AFIN: two policing partners integrated their data in 2019–20. Integration with AFIN provides each police partner with access to the full historical data holdings in the system and creates a national record showing the lifecycle of every firearm in Australia.

Table 2.12 provides details of searches conducted by users of the ACIC's active systems.

Table 2.12: Searches conducted

Service type	System	Four-year historical average		2019–20
Frontline	National Police Reference System	36,871,546	↑	38,922,218
	National Firearms Identification Database	18,436	↑	46,999
	Australian Ballistic Information Network ^a	2,626	↑	4,329
	Australian Firearms Information Network ^b	40,558	↑	443,921
	National Vehicles of Interest System	7,672,305	↓	6,223,497
Biometric and forensic	National Automated Fingerprint Identification System	1,487,537	↑	1,507,182
Criminal intelligence	Australian Criminal Intelligence Database	368,608	↓	241,517

↑ Result 5% or more above historical average

↓ Result 5% or more below historical average

a Processes were implemented during 2018–19 to capture statistics from the Australian Ballistic Information Network.

Previously, search information was automatically deleted by the system, so only a partial result for 2018–19 is shown.

b Searches of the National Firearms Licensing and Registration System decreased during 2019–20, consistent with decommissioning of the platform. A number of police partner agencies had a low rate of adoption of the Australian Firearms Information Network when it was delivered at the end of 2016 and continued to actively use the National Firearms Licensing and Registration System until it was decommissioned. Therefore, the four-year historical average may not accurately reflect performance over time.

Nationally coordinated criminal history checks

The number of nationally coordinated criminal history checks conducted through ACIC systems rose by only 0.1 per cent in 2019–20. This result was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with check volumes and revenue reducing significantly from March 2020. In 2019–20, check submissions exceeded 5.6 million, as shown in Table 2.13.

Table 2.13: Police history checks submitted

Measure	Four-year historical average	2019–20	
Number of nationally coordinated criminal history checks submitted	5,002,569	↑	5,634,321

↑ Result 5% or more above historical average

The NPCS timeliness measure shown in Table 2.14 is not only an ACIC performance measure, but also one shared by our police partners in providing this service to the wider community and other agencies.

When an initial search reveals a potential match (as occurs in approximately 30 per cent of checks), it is referred to the relevant police jurisdiction for further assessment. If police confirm a match, they apply the relevant spent conviction legislation and/or relevant information release policies to determine what information can be disclosed, before finalising the check and returning the result directly to the accredited body or police agency that lodged the check. This process may be complicated and, in a small number of cases, may cause delays beyond the agreed timeframes.

Table 2.14: Police history checks completed on time

Measure	Board-agreed benchmark	Four-year historical average		2019–20	
On time—standard checks Target: 10 days	95.0%	96.2%	✓	94.9%	×
On time—urgent checks Target: 5 days	95.0%	91.1%	×	90.8%	×

✓ Benchmark met


× Benchmark not met

Stakeholder survey results

Table 2.15: Stakeholder survey results—Connect 1

Survey statement	Proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed			
	2019–20	Change	2018–19	2017–18
ACIC national policing and intelligence systems and services are reliable	75%	+2	73%	67%
ACIC national policing and intelligence systems and services are accessible	81%	+3	78%	79%
The ACIC is trustworthy in handling our partners' information	83%	–	83%	83%

Connect (continued)

Performance criterion	Result
<p>Connect 2</p> <p>Through effective collaboration, enable the delivery and implementation of new and enhanced ACIC systems and services that satisfy the needs of stakeholders and users.</p>	

Achievements

By delivering and implementing new and enhanced national systems and services, we increased the capability of our partners and contributed to the effectiveness of our collective efforts to make Australia safer from crime.

Projects delivered to partners

The Australian Law Enforcement Intelligence Network (ALEIN) and Australian Criminal Intelligence Database remediation project commenced in 2019 and focused on replacing aging physical hardware and firewalls. Upgrades to the database, application services and the operating system were also conceived. The first component of replacing the ALEIN mail servers was completed, reducing the risks of failure of this system into the future. The other components have been postponed until further funding becomes available.

The development of the Working with Children Checks National Reference System was completed in 2018–19. The service supports decisions to approve applicants to work with children, including the national provision of negative notices to relevant stakeholders. Two of the relevant state agencies, in Tasmania and Western Australia, have completed their integration and are live on the system. Both agencies have benefitted from the system in several instances in which applicants applying for a certification were shown to have been refused certification in another jurisdiction. Due to COVID-19 limitations, the remaining states and territories are yet to join the system.

AFIN system enhancements were delivered on 30 September 2019, providing new features and improved functionality and usability. The enhancements included an infrastructure and version upgrade to version 8.1. Direct integration into AFIN was commenced by the Western Australia Police Force on 29 July 2020 and the AFP on 5 November 2020. To ensure access to the AFIN system for partners as more policing services integrate, the ACIC delivered the AFIN Backwards-Compatibility Solution on 19 October 2019. This allows legacy National Firearms Licensing and Registration System data to be provisioned to AFIN until partners have integrated directly into the system.

Projects progressed

During 2019–20, significant work occurred to progress the NCIS development program. NCIS will be a whole-of-government capability which will give Australia’s law enforcement and intelligence agencies the first truly national and unified picture of criminal activity. It will improve community safety by providing a secure and trusted information-sharing platform for frontline law enforcement, enabling jurisdictions to share criminal information and intelligence and improving the law enforcement and intelligence community’s ability to work together across jurisdictions to achieve common outcomes. The NCIS program will deliver core capability by December 2020.

NCIS is now hosted in the ACIC environment and receiving continuous updates of NPRS data. Using only NPRS data, NCIS has enabled correlation not only across fingerprint identification but also around records containing same driver licence identification, same photo of the person of interest and exact address match for a person of interest.

A business case to replace the Child Exploitation Tracking System capabilities with a more contemporary application was prepared and presented to the ACIC Board. The new application will reside with the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, subject to the approval of funding to progress the development of the new application.

Projects planned

The NPCS Technical Uplift and Business Enhancement Project has progressed a range of system changes to stabilise and improve the performance and enhance the existing functionality of the NPCS Support System.

The NAFIS Hardware Stabilisation Project was initiated in December 2019 and will be delivered by October 2020. The project will remove risk posed to NAFIS by obsolete infrastructure and will increase the performance, reliability and availability of the system.

NAFIS NextGen is the planned new version of the system. It will ensure that fingerprint identification capability used by all police partner agencies continues to be supported and will deliver process automation that will result in increased efficiencies for partner agency staff.

The Partner Collaboration Services Project is intended to sustain and improve the ability of the ACIC to collaborate and share protected information with our external partners in particular states and territories. This will be delivered by developing effective governance; configuring the service to meet business and security requirements; and expanding our software platform to replace our unsupported extranet.

Stakeholder survey results


‘The underlying fingerprint system works well, and we use it a lot. Having that system makes a big difference, and keeping this older system working 24/7 has been vital.’
—State policing partner, 2020 Stakeholder Survey

'The Request For Information section of the ACIC has been outstanding.'—Australian Government partner, 2020 Stakeholder Survey

Table 2.16: Stakeholder survey results—Connect 2

Survey statement	Proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed			
	2019–20	Change	2018–19	2017–18
New and enhanced ACIC national policing and intelligence systems are being developed and improved to meet their organisation's needs	43%	-14	57%	61%
The ACIC systems meet the criminal information and intelligence needs of their organisation	46%	-2	48%	45%
Our information technology projects are of value or great value to their role	89%	-5	94%	84%

Connect (continued)

Performance criterion	Result
Connect 3 The ACIC is sharing increasing volume, breadth and formats (mediums, platforms) of criminal intelligence and information, police information, and other relevant information.	

Achievements

We measure our performance against this criterion by the volume of data we share and make available to our stakeholders. We also record our development of new formats for sharing.

We share our information by:

- ▶ providing systems that our stakeholders can search to find the information they need
- ▶ disseminating intelligence and other information directly to our partners
- ▶ providing public, unclassified information and intelligence.

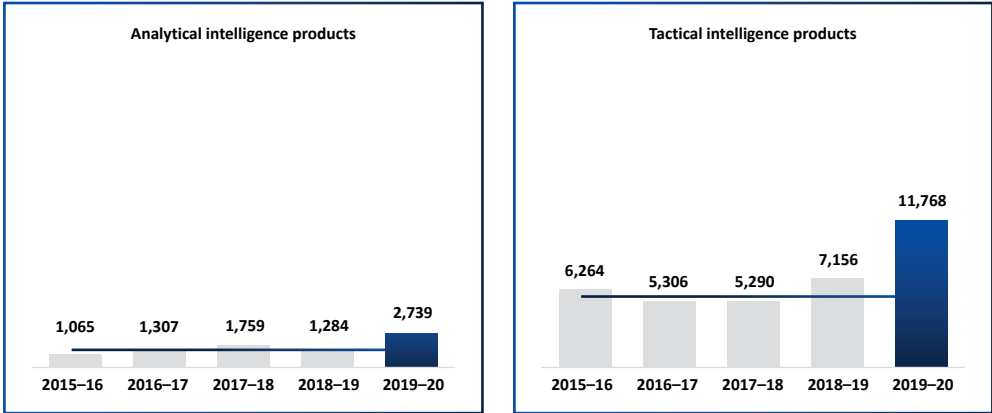
The results for service provision and usage reported under the Connect 1 performance criterion are relevant to our performance in relation to sharing information and intelligence under this criterion; please see tables 2.9 and 2.10.

Information and intelligence shared

We measure the sharing of information and intelligence by tracking the numbers of products and alerts we have disseminated and the number of requests for information we have completed. This demonstrates the breadth and amount of criminal intelligence and information, police information, and other relevant information that we are producing and providing to our law enforcement partners each year.

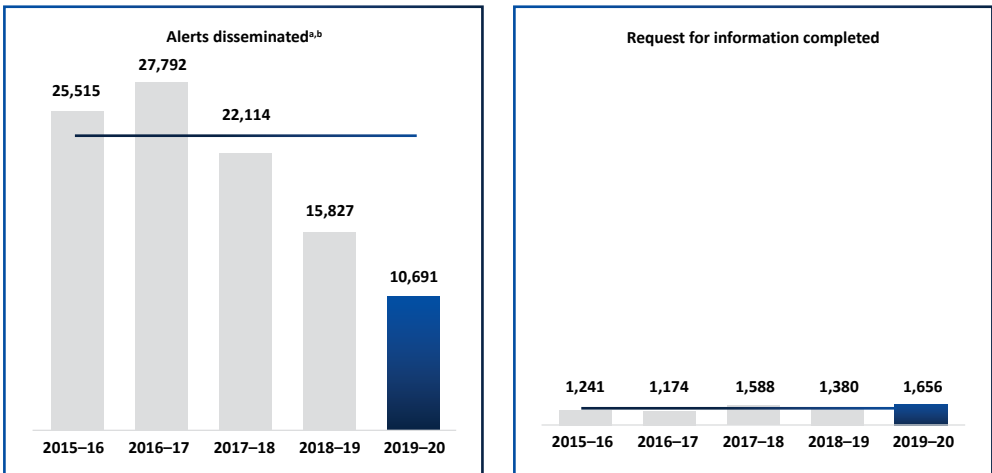
We shared criminal information and intelligence with 321 national and international law enforcement partners and other stakeholders during 2019–20. Figures 2.9 and 2.10 provide details of how we delivered that information.

Figure 2.9: Analytical and tactical intelligence products disseminated



Note: The results for 2015-16 have been updated to include previously unreported products. The trendline represents the four-year historical average.

Figure 2.10: Alerts disseminated and requests for information completed



a The 2018-19 result for alerts disseminated is below the historical average due to a system issue.
 b The 2019-20 result for alerts disseminated is below the historical average due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 Note: The trendline represents the four-year historical average.

Volume of data accumulated

We include statistics and trends on the volume of data available to our stakeholders as one aspect of our performance in connecting our partners to the information they need to make Australia safer.

Table 2.17 provides details of the numbers of records held in our systems at 30 June 2020. Because the number of records in each system is expected to increase each year, comparisons are made to the previous year only. We have aggregated different categories or types of records where appropriate, to calculate the total number of records held by each system.

Table 2.17: System records held

Service type	System	2018–19	Change		2019–20
Frontline	National Police Reference System	12,070,156	556,787	↑	12,626,943
	National Firearms Identification Database	12,972	622	↑	13,594
	Australian Ballistic Information Network	83,819	2,312	↔	86,131
	Australian Firearms Information Network ^a	10,904,259	1,459,527	↑	12,363,786
	National Vehicles of Interest System	3,834,521	106,863	↔	3,941,384
Biometric and forensic	National Automated Fingerprint Identification System	10,034,465	756,798	↑	10,791,263
	National Criminal Investigation DNA Database	1,324,575	120,366	↑	1,444,941
	National Missing Persons and Victim System	3,383	163	↑	3,546
Criminal intelligence	Australian Criminal Intelligence Database	5,337,790	249,365	↑	5,587,155
	National Target System	15,951	-1,362	↓	14,589

↑ Result 5% or more above previous financial year

↓ Result 5% or more below previous financial year

↔ Result within 5% of previous financial year

^a Status reports for the Australian Firearms Information Network have been updated to include separate address records. This is reflected in an increase in reported records for 2019–20.

The decline in National Target System records was due to records updates, following the revision of the National Gangs List business rules (as endorsed by National Task Force Morpheus), and quality assurance reviews of OMCG membership data conducted by jurisdictions.

Publicly available information provided

The ACIC released five public reports in 2019–20:

- ▶ The *Illicit Drug Data Report 2017–18* was released in August 2019. It is the 16th edition of the report and includes arrest, detection, seizure, purity, profiling and price data.
- ▶ The *Methylamphetamine supply reduction—Measures of effectiveness* report was published in September 2019. The report describes how, for the first time, the ACIC overlaid consumption data derived from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program with other illicit drug indicator data to understand the relationship between supply and consumption within the Australian methylamphetamine market. The ‘Data confirms that large seizures impact methylamphetamine consumption’ feature on page 35 provides further information.
- ▶ The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program released three reports: Report 8 in October 2019, Report 9 in March 2020 and Report 10 in June 2020.

FEATURE:

ACIC database assists New Zealand's firearm buyback scheme

“ **Our NFID assisted New Zealand Police to identify a broad range of firearms subject to surrender and compensation.** ”

In 2019, we made the ACIC's National Firearms Identification Database (NFID) available to our New Zealand Police partners to help them implement a firearm buyback scheme.

New Zealand banned semiautomatic weapons and launched a gun amnesty and buyback scheme in early 2019. Our NFID assisted New Zealand Police to identify a broad range of firearms subject to surrender and compensation. Additionally, an ACIC firearm matter expert attended regional buyback centres to assist New Zealand Police officers to identify firearms and their parts and components.

Our firearms database sets uniform national standards for the identification of firearms registered within Australia. The database is a reference tool that enables police to identify and characterise a firearm using descriptors such as make, model, calibre and magazine capacity. It assists police to ensure that firearms are recorded consistently during registration, importation or transfer of ownership and movement across state or territory borders.

The NFID has recently been a point of discussion between the Australian firearm industry and the ACIC in facilitating the allocation of firearm template numbers upon the importation of firearms. This process would create enhanced data for the national database and would be based upon a nationally accepted standard for firearm descriptors.

Through effective collaboration, we enabled the delivery and implementation of the NFID and our specialist services to meet the needs of our New Zealand partners. We continue to work with our New Zealand partners and improve each other's intelligence capabilities. By providing New Zealand Police with the database and other relevant services, we were able to collaborate and maintain innovative national and international information to help with our intelligence-sharing services.

Overview of financial performance

The ACIC's financial result for 2019–20 was an operating surplus of \$5.333 million.

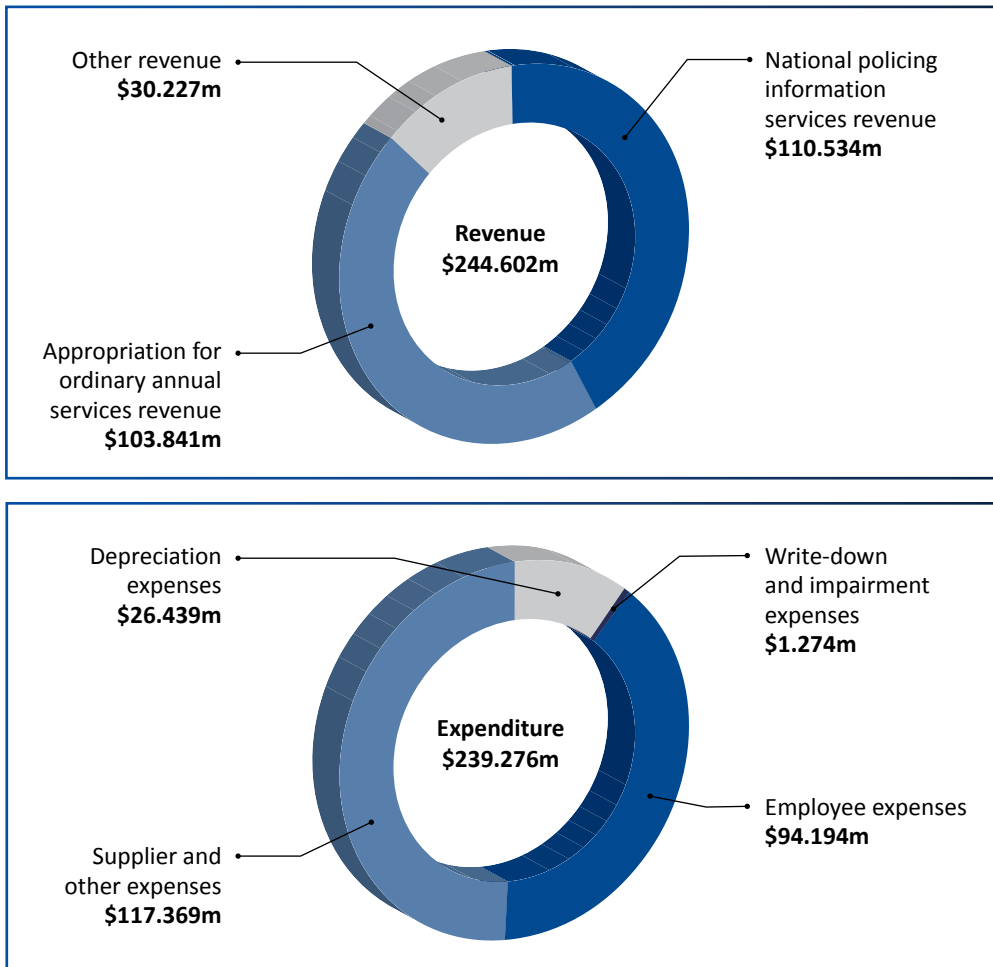
With the exclusion of unfunded depreciation (\$7.301 million), the impact of the new lease accounting standard (\$1.934 million), and capital funding income (\$15.399 million), the ACIC would have realised a loss of \$0.831 million for the financial year.

During 2019–20, there were no instances of significant non-compliance with the finance law. The ACIC received an unmodified audit opinion from the Australian National Audit Office.

Revenue and expenditure

Figure 2.11 summarises sources of revenue and expenditure in 2019–20. More details of resources and expenses are provided in tables 2.18 to 2.20.

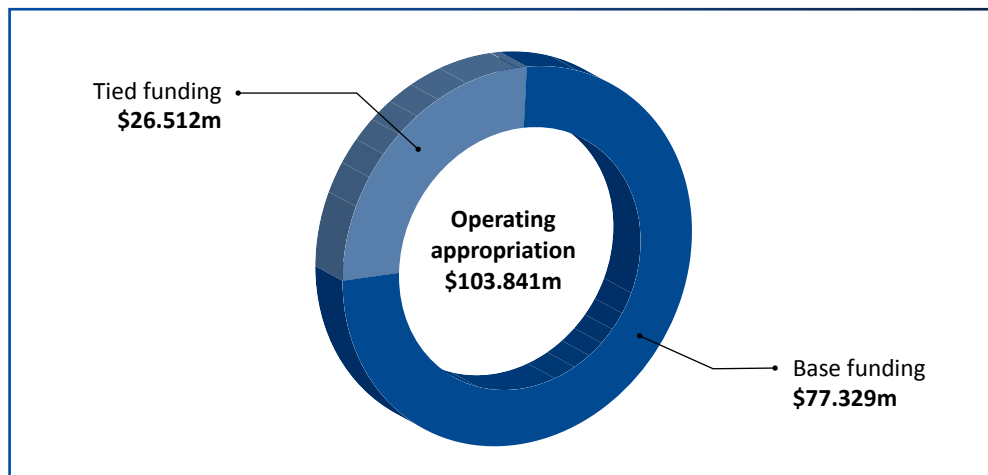
Figure 2.11: Revenue and expenditure



Appropriation for 2019–20

The ACIC's operating appropriation of \$103.841 million was made up of base appropriation funding of \$77.329 million plus \$26.512 million of tied funding, as shown in Figure 2.12.

Figure 2.12: Operating appropriation



The tied funding in 2019–20 consisted of:

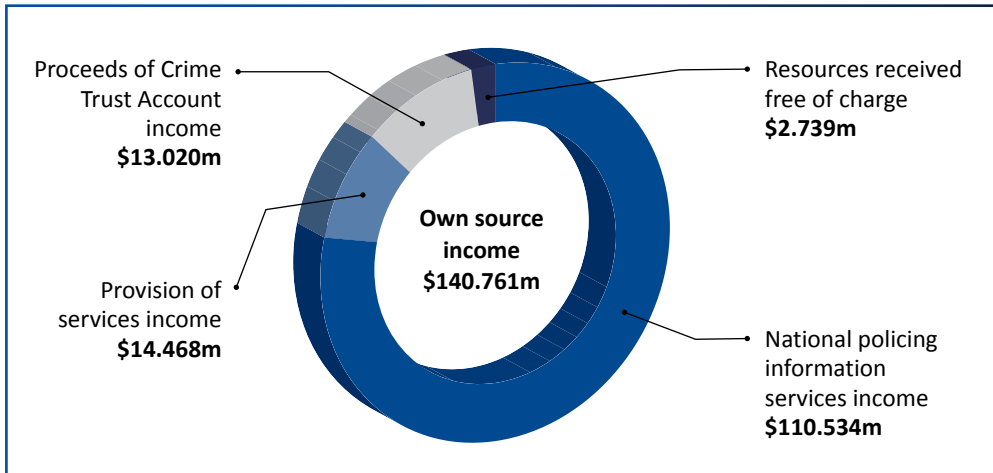
- ▶ \$1.647 million for the Australian Gangs Intelligence Coordination Centre
- ▶ \$0.891 million to enhance physical security for all office buildings and personnel security capabilities, in response to the current heightened security threat
- ▶ \$4.350 million to develop and enhance the ACIC's cybercrime intelligence and analysis capability in response to recommendations of the 2016 Cyber Security Review
- ▶ \$0.359 million to support 24/7 operation of the Australian Cyber Security Centre to prevent and combat cyber security threats
- ▶ \$1.194 million for the operation of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program
- ▶ \$4.569 million to support deployment of surveillance capability
- ▶ \$1.735 million to enhance the Criminal Intelligence Capability program and provide better training to the intelligence workforce for the ACIC and partner agencies
- ▶ \$11.767 million to develop the NCIS Tranche 1 program.

Own source income in 2019–20

In addition to the government appropriation as detailed in Figure 2.12, the ACIC had own source income as detailed in Figure 2.13.

Own source income consisted of \$110.534 million as a result of provision of national policing information services, \$13.020 million received from the Proceeds of Crime Trust Account, \$14.468 million from provision of services and \$2.739 million in resources received free of charge.

Figure 2.13: Own source income



Internal controls

The ACIC's internal controls that ensured compliance with our financial management responsibilities included:

- ▶ senior management involvement in budget development, allocation and monitoring
- ▶ internal and external reporting, including providing financial information to the ACIC Board on the National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account and reporting monthly to the Department of Finance and the ACIC Executive
- ▶ full engagement with the ACIC Audit Committee
- ▶ periodic review of the Accountable Authority Instructions, policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the PGPA Act
- ▶ audit by the Australian National Audit Office and the ACIC's internal audit team
- ▶ face-to-face financial delegation and procurement training for financial delegates and relevant staff
- ▶ engagement with the ACIC Executive to identify breaches of financial management practices under the PGPA Act and to provide assurance to the Accountable Authority and the Chief Financial Officer
- ▶ centralised administration of procurement, property leases, assets, travel, credit cards, fleet vehicles, mobile phones and laptops.

Table 2.18: Entity resource statement

	Actual available appropriations for 2019–20 \$'000 (a)	Payments made 2019–20 \$'000 (b)	Balance remaining \$'000 (a–b)
Departmental annual appropriations—ordinary annual services			
Prior year appropriation available	57,819	57,819	–
Departmental appropriation (including departmental capital budget) ¹	106,857	44,386	62,471
Section 74 relevant agency receipts ²	26,623	21,624	4,999
Total ordinary annual services	191,299	123,829	67,470
Annual appropriation—other services non-operating			
Prior year appropriation available	–	–	–
Equity injections ³	23,636	8,758	14,878
Total other services	23,636	8,758	14,878
Total annual appropriations	214,935	132,587	82,348
National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account			
Opening balance	125,812		
Appropriation receipts	20,525		
Non-appropriation receipts	114,175		
Payments made		139,433	
Total special account	260,512	139,433	121,079
Less: departmental appropriations drawn from annual appropriations and credited to special accounts	(20,525)		(20,525)
Total resourcing and payments	454,923	272,020	182,903

1 Annual departmental appropriation includes \$0.404m quarantined.

2 Section 74 agency receipts and payments exclude any GST component.

3 Equity injection funded for 2019–20 was \$23.636m of which \$14.878m has been re-phased for future years.

Table 2.19: Expenditure by outcome

Outcome 1: To make Australia safer through improved national ability to discover, understand and respond to current and emerging crime threats, including the ability to connect police and law enforcement to essential criminal intelligence, policing knowledge and information through collaborative national information systems and services.	Budget 2019–20 \$'000	Actual expenses 2019–20 \$'000	Variation \$'000
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation and section 74 agency receipts	121,303	119,774	1,529
National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account	116,343	109,462	6,881
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	11,443	10,040	1,403
Total departmental expenses	249,089	239,276	9,813
Total expenses for Outcome 1	249,089	239,276	9,813

Table 2.20: Average staffing level

	Budget 2019–20	Actual 2019–20
Average staffing level (number)	849	737

FEATURE:

National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program report provides valuable insights

“**Australia ranks fourth highest for total estimated stimulant consumption specifically related to methylamphetamine, amphetamine, cocaine and MDMA.**”

The ACIC’s National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program provides insights into the trends and emerging issues of drug consumption across Australia, while helping to identify new sources of threat.

In June 2020, the program released its tenth report, covering wastewater samples taken in October and December 2019 and February 2020.

The data in the report was comparable with international data on a variety of drugs and their consumption. A comparison with data from 30 other countries determined that Australia’s level of stimulant consumption is among the highest in the world.

According to the data, Australia ranks fourth highest for total estimated stimulant consumption specifically related to methylamphetamine, amphetamine, cocaine and MDMA. Notably, Australia also ranked third highest for consumption of methylamphetamine and consumption of MDMA.

The tenth report covers 43 per cent of the population, which equates to about 10 million people. Fifty-three wastewater treatment plants across Australia participated in the sample collection, which monitored the consumption of 13 substances.

Consistent with the findings of other National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program reports, nicotine and alcohol were the highest consumed of the drugs measured by the program for which dose data is available. Likewise, methylamphetamine remained the highest consumed illicit drug.

Record levels were reported for capital city and regional MDMA and nicotine consumption, capital city methylamphetamine consumption, regional cocaine consumption, and regional alcohol consumption. Regional consumption of heroin decreased to the lowest level recorded by the program.

In the 2019 Budget, the ACIC received an additional \$4.8 million over four years to fund the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, building its longitudinal data and delivering an additional 12 public reports. With this support, the program will continue to evolve and demonstrate its flexibility.

As Australians continue to consume illicit drugs at increasing levels, the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program is providing an important and consistent measure to guide and monitor drug responses.

FEATURE:

ACIC hosts conference to combat pharmaceutical opioid threat

“The conference highlighted **key insights** on the **pharmaceutical opioid threat in Australia** as well as the ways in which the **crisis is affecting other countries**.”

In February 2020, the ACIC hosted the Pharmaceutical Opioid Conference, which welcomed representatives of law enforcement agencies, health agencies and other key stakeholders from across Australia. The conference was also attended by international subject experts and members of our partner agencies in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The conference highlighted key insights on the pharmaceutical opioid threat in Australia as well as the ways in which the crisis is affecting other countries. Representatives from the United States and the United Kingdom shared their perspectives on the opioid crisis and how their countries are responding to the threat.

A number of initiatives being undertaken by our international partner agencies are also being implemented in Australia by the ACIC and domestic partners as part of projects which target high-risk and emerging drugs.

The ACIC presented key findings on research and analysis related to illicit markets in which oxycodone and fentanyl feature. We provided detailed insights into the demand and supply sides of those markets.

Our partners from the Australian Institute of Criminology also discussed research on patterns in fentanyl use and supply, drawn from their Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program.

The Pharmaceutical Opioid Conference provided us and our partner agencies with a valuable opportunity to discuss current and emerging trends in relation to high-risk and emerging pharmaceutical opioids.