



INCOMING GOVERNMENT BRIEF

May 2022

Released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)

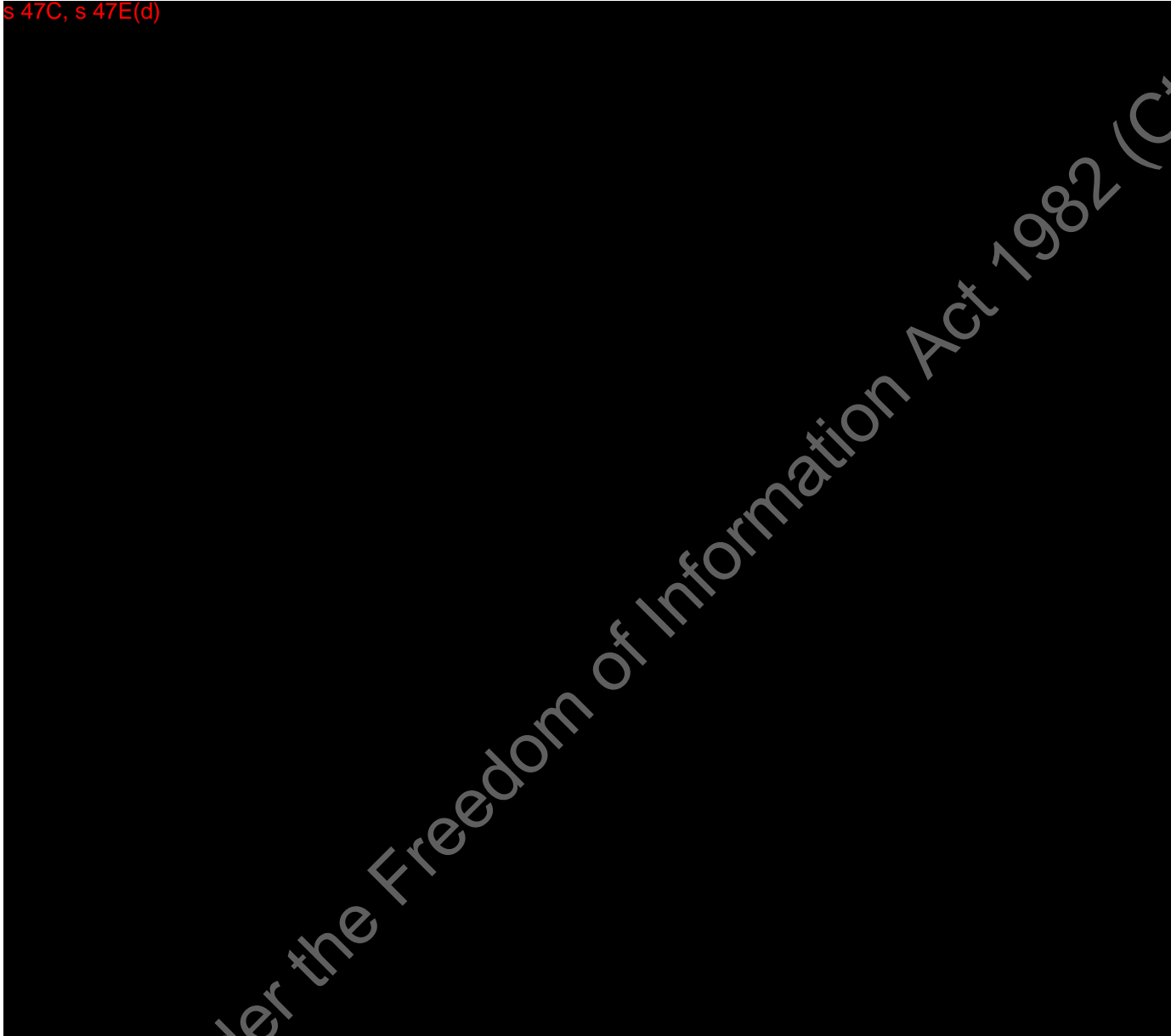
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Key issues

Legislative reform

s 47C, s 47E(d)



Amendments to the new Criminal Intelligence Assessments for Aviation or Maritime Security Card applicants

Work is underway to prepare the ACIC to conduct Criminal Intelligence Assessments (CIAs) progressively from June 2022, with a full capability in June 2023. The new capability will see the ACIC's intelligence holdings and that of its Commonwealth and jurisdictional partners, used to make decisions on a person's suitability to hold an Aviation or Maritime Security Card (ASIC/MSIC). This new function requires integration with the existing Auscheck background checking systems and processes.

s 37(2)(b), s 47E(d)

s 37(2)(b), s 47E(d)

s 37(2)(b), s 47E(d)

Budget

s 47E(d)

In the 2022-23 Federal Budget the ACIC received \$76.3 million over 2 years for the ACIC base funding model to stabilise, transform and uplift core criminal intelligence operational capabilities.

- s 47E(d)

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This funding was critical to ensure the ACIC was enabled to continue to deliver on its niche criminal intelligence operational functions.

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- s 47E(d) [Redacted]
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S 47E(d)

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Agency Overview

The ACIC¹ was established on 1 July 2016 and is uniquely equipped as Australia's national criminal intelligence agency with investigative and information delivery functions.

Included in this section is a broad summary of the ACIC's strategic direction, functions and senior executive organisational structure.

A copy of the ACIC Strategic Direction 2022-26 is at **Appendix A**.

Our Vision

An Australia hostile to criminal exploitation.

Our Purpose

The purpose of the ACIC is to protect Australia from criminal threats through coordinating a strategic response and collecting, assessing and disseminating intelligence and policing information.

Functions of the ACIC

The functions of the ACIC are set out in section 7A of the ACC Act and are as follows:

All references to the ACC below can be taken as reference to the ACIC.

- (a) to collect, correlate, analyse and disseminate criminal information and intelligence and to maintain a national database of that information and intelligence
- (b) when authorised by a determination made by the Board—to undertake special ACC operations
- (c) when authorised by a determination made by the Board—to undertake special ACC investigations
- (ca) to do any of the following (whether in its own name or through officers or members of staff of the ACC), as permitted or required for the purposes of Part IAB or IABA of the *Crimes Act 1914* or any other law of the Commonwealth:
 - (i) to apply for, and to grant, integrity authorities in relation to members of staff of the ACC
 - (ii) to conduct and participate in integrity operations in relation to members of staff of the ACC
 - (iii) to assist the Australian Federal Police, the Department of Home Affairs or the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity in making applications for integrity authorities
 - (iv) to assist those agencies in the conduct of integrity operations
- (d) to provide reports to the Board on the outcomes of those operations or investigations

¹ The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) is now also known as the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC). The *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002* (Cth) and the regulations under that Act set out the legal foundation for the ACC/ACIC, including how the agency may be named as well as the functions, responsibilities and powers of the agency, its CEO, Board, examiners and members of staff.

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(e) to provide strategic criminal intelligence assessments, and any other criminal information and intelligence, to the Board

(f) to provide advice to the Board on national criminal intelligence priorities

(fa) to provide systems and services relating to national policing information, including the following:

(i) collecting, correlating and organising national policing information

(ii) providing access to national policing information

(iii) supporting and facilitating the exchange of national policing information

(iv) providing nationally coordinated criminal history checks on payment of a charge imposed by the Charges Act

(g) such other functions as are conferred on the ACC by other provisions of this Act or by any other Act.

Structure

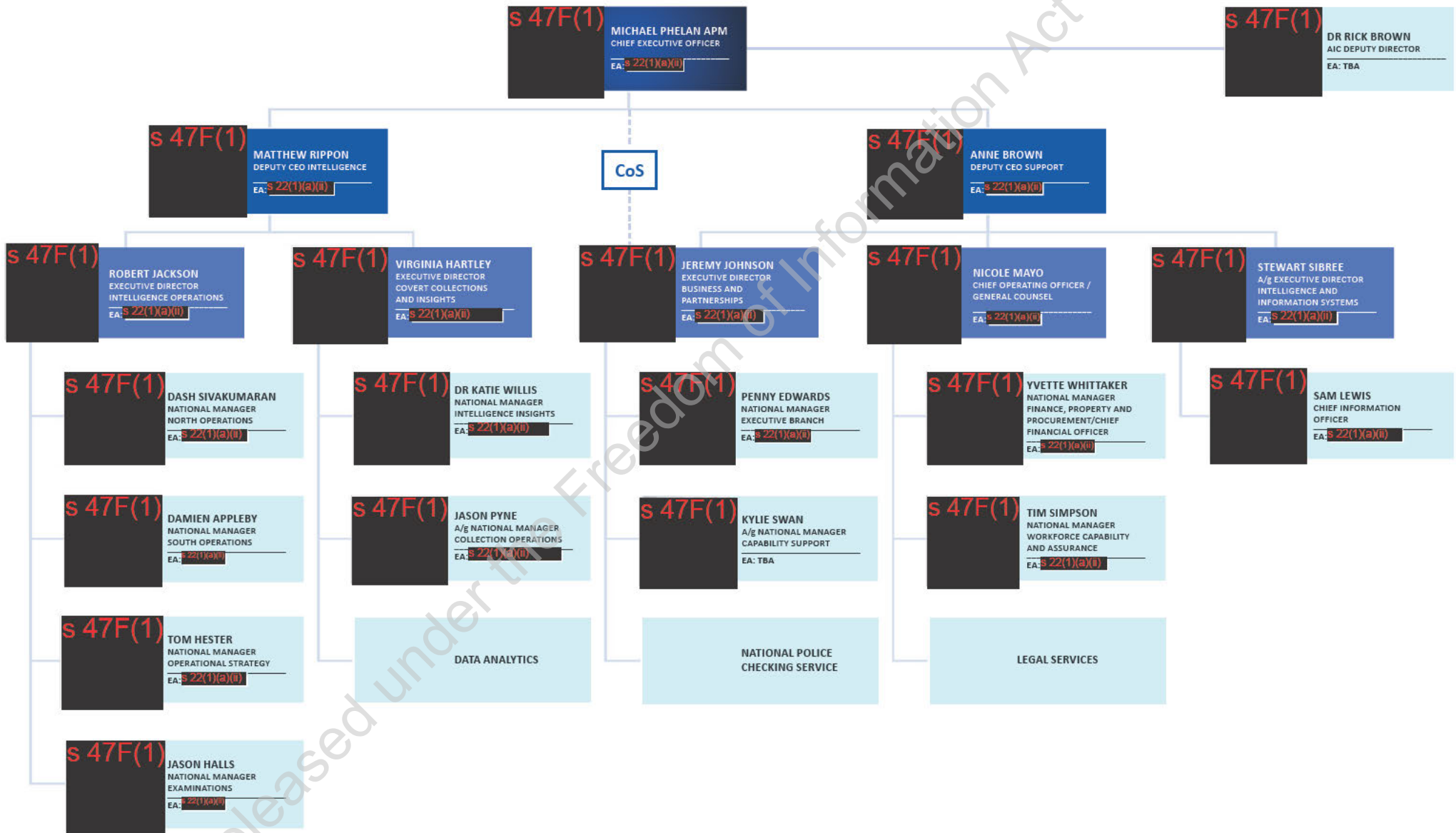
The agency is headed by the CEO and structured into two groups as follows:

- **Support Group**—ACIC's business and engagement lead for our key national policing information and background checking services. The group also provides important enabling functions to the ACIC, including ICT, financial services, workforce capability and assurance, legal services, strategic engagement and communication
- **Intelligence Group**—leverages our unique intelligence collection capabilities to drive intelligence insights and disruption outcomes. This includes examinations and covert collection capabilities, operational strategy and the development of intelligence that delivers operational, policy and regulatory outcomes in response to the threat of serious and organised crime.

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SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Key points of contact for engagement

<p>Mr Michael Phelan APM Chief Executive Officer s 47F(1), s 47E(d) [Redacted]</p>	<p>Ms Anne Brown Deputy CEO Support s 47F(1), s 47E(d) [Redacted]</p>
<p>Mr Matt Rippon Deputy CEO Intelligence s 47F(1), s 47E(d) [Redacted] [Redacted]</p>	<p>Mr Jeremy Johnson Chief of Staff and Executive Director Business and Partnerships s 47F(1), s 47E(d) [Redacted] [Redacted]</p>
<p>Ms Penny Edwards National Manager, Executive Branch s 47F(1), s 47E(d) [Redacted] [Redacted]</p>	<p>s 47F(1), s 47E(d) [Redacted] s 47F(1), s 47E(d) [Redacted] [Redacted]</p>

Agency governance and oversight

Governance provisions for the ACIC are predominantly contained in relevant legislation. In order to ensure that the ACIC uses its powers responsibly, effectively and in accordance with the law at all times, the ACIC is also properly subject to significant internal and external oversight.

Key ACIC governance and oversight arrangements are specified below.

Minister for Home Affairs

The Commonwealth Minister for Home Affairs maintains Commonwealth responsibility for the ACIC. The CEO of the ACIC is responsible to the Minister for Home Affairs under the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth) and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth).

s 47E(d)

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

ACIC CEO

The CEO is the accountable authority of the ACIC for the purposes of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

The CEO is responsible for overseeing the management and administration of the ACIC, and providing leadership, strategic direction and strong governance for the agency. The CEO is a non-voting member of the ACIC Board.

ACIC Board

The ACIC Board and is established by section 7B of the ACC Act and the functions of the Board are set out in section 7C. The functions are limited to:

- determining priorities for national criminal intelligence and national policing information systems and services
- providing strategic direction and determining the priorities for the ACIC
- authorising, by determination, special ACIC investigations and special ACIC operations to occur
- establishing task forces
- disseminating strategic criminal intelligence assessments
- making recommendations about expenditure and fees for national policing information services
- determining policies and conditions for providing nationally coordinated criminal history checks and disclosing national policing information
- reporting to the Inter-Governmental Committee on the ACIC's performance.

Board Membership

The Board consists of the following members:

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- the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police (Chair)
- the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs
- the Comptroller-General of Customs (Commissioner, Australian Border Force)
- the Chairperson of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission
- the Director-General of Security (Australian Security Intelligence Organisation)
- the Commissioner of Taxation
- the Commissioner of Police of each State and the Northern Territory
- the Chief Police Officer of the Australian Capital Territory, and
- the Chief Executive Officer of the ACIC (non-voting member).

The Board also has two non-voting observers who provide assistance and advice:

- the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (non-voting observer), and
- the Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department (non-voting observer)

Inter-Governmental Committee on the ACC

The Inter-Governmental Committee on the ACC (IGC-ACC) is established under section 8 of the ACC Act. The IGC-ACC monitors the work of the agency, the strategic direction and the work of the ACIC Board, including the use of coercive powers. The IGC-ACC also has the authority to revoke a determination (an ACIC Board-approved work priority) made by the ACIC Board.

The IGC-ACC traditionally comprises of the Minister of Home Affairs and a minister to represent each state and territory government, nominated by the Premier or Chief Minister of the state or territory. The Committee meets twice each calendar year; s 47C

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement (PJCLE) is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the ACIC's performance of its functions. The duties of the PJCLE as they relate to the ACIC are:

- to monitor and to review the performance by the ACIC of its functions
- to report to both Houses of the Parliament, any matters relating to the ACIC or its performance of which the PJCLE thinks the Parliament should be aware
- to examine the ACIC's annual reports and report to Parliament
- to examine trends and changes in criminal activities, practices and methods and report to Parliament any change which the Committee thinks desirable to the functions, structure, powers and procedures of the ACIC.

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity

The Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) supports the Integrity Commissioner to provide independent assurance to government about the integrity of prescribed law enforcement agencies, including the ACIC, and their staff members, by detecting, investigating and preventing corrupt conduct. The Office of the Integrity Commissioner, and ACLEI, are established by the *Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006* (the LEIC Act).

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Under the LEIC Act, the ACIC CEO is required to notify the Integrity Commissioner of corruption issues that relate to the ACIC. While the decision to notify the Integrity Commissioner rests with the CEO, the ACIC and ACLEI work collaboratively and cases are discussed to assess whether there should be a formal notification.

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Proposed Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security oversight

There is potential for the ACIC to fall under the oversight of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) in accordance with recommendation from the Richardson Review.

The IGIS conducts regular inspections of Australian Intelligence Community agencies and conducts inquiries, of varying levels of formality, as the need arises. The overarching purpose of these activities is to ensure that intelligence agencies act legally and with propriety, complies with ministerial guidelines and directives, and respects human rights.

The *Surveillance Legislation Amendment (Identify and Disrupt) Act 2021* (SLAID) introduced 3 new powers for the AFP and ACIC to identify and disrupt serious online criminal activity. The ACIC's use of Network Activity Warrants, which allow the collection of intelligence on serious criminal activity carried out by networks operating online, is overseen by the IGIS. This is the first time the IGIS has had mandated oversight of any aspect of ACIC activities.

Commonwealth Ombudsman

The Ombudsman is responsible for overseeing approximately 20 law enforcement agencies, including the ACIC, and their use of certain covert and intrusive powers. The Ombudsman's role is to provide assurance that agencies are using their powers as Parliament intended, and if not, hold the agencies accountable to the Government and the public. The s 47E(d) [REDACTED] does this by conducting inspections, which involves engaging with agencies, auditing relevant records, and testing agencies' processes and systems. These inspections serve as an important community safeguard and assist agencies in applying sound administrative practices.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman is responsible for overseeing the use of data disruption warrants and account takeover warrants. This is consistent with the Commonwealth Ombudsman's current oversight of the AFP and the ACIC's use of electronic surveillance powers. The IGIS oversees network activity warrants, given their nature as an intelligence collection tool.

These powers will be subject to review by the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor and the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.

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Budget and staffing

Funding sources

The ACIC derives funding from multiple sources in order to deliver its functions, including government appropriation, own-source revenue (via the National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account (Special Account) and other State and Territory government agencies), New Policy Proposals (NPPs) and funding provided through the Confiscated Assets Account under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* (POCA).

[REDACTED]

- s 47E(d) [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Intelligence [REDACTED] including support services, of the ACIC have been funded in large part by government appropriation with additional funding being provided under POCA. In addition, the ACIC received money from its partners under various MOUs. Support services, are funded from a mix of appropriation and own source revenue. The provision of National Policing Information Services is funded from own source revenue.

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[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

s 47E(d) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The ACIC primarily derives its own source revenue via the National Police Checking Service, which provides national criminal history checks undertaken for employment purposes. The revenue is quarantined in the Special Account for the purpose of running police systems.

Due to the blended funding sources which apply to the ACIC, a cost allocation model is in place which ensures that intelligence services which were historically performed by the former ACC continue to be funded by the Commonwealth, whilst existing and future policing information systems / services continue to be sustainably funded from the Special Account.

2021-22 appropriation and revenue

s 47E(d) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2022-23 appropriation and revenue

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

Special Account

The Special Account was established by the Financial Management and Accountability Determination 2006/07—National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account Establishment 2006. Since 2016 the Special Account has been enshrined in the ACC Act. Expenditure from the account is also limited by the ACC Act.

The purposes of the Special Account are as follows:

- a) paying for scoping, developing, procuring, implementing and operating information technology systems and services in connection with the national policing information functions
- b) paying or discharging the costs, expenses and other obligations incurred by the Commonwealth in the performance of the national policing information functions
- c) paying any remuneration and allowances payable to any person under the Act in relation to the national policing information functions
- d) meeting the expenses of administering the Account
- e) repaying to a State all or part of an amount received from the State in connection with the performance of national policing information functions, if it is not required for the purpose for which it was paid
- f) paying refunds in accordance with section 15A of the ACC Act
- g) reducing the balance of the Account (and therefore the available appropriation for the Account) without making a real or notional payment.









Section 15A of the ACC Act refers to national policing information charges which, at the time of this briefing, are charges for criminal history checks.

The replacement of any current policing system functionality would be, as a default, funded from the Special Account. In the case of additional functionality to an existing policing system, either as part of a replacement of a core system or as part of a green fields project, funding will be agreed on a case by case basis.

Staffing

As at 1 May 2022, the ACIC had 749 Australian Public Service employees and statutory office holders. The ACIC works out of 8 locations in Australia and several overseas locations. The distribution of staff is displayed in the table below:

Australia as at January 2022

ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
							

Taskforces and secondees as at 1 May 2022

The ACIC coordinates and participates in taskforces and joint analyst groups with partner agencies. The ACIC also supplements staffing with secondees from other agencies. The ACIC has 321 taskforce members working on joint taskforces to support ACIC priorities. Taskforce members are provided and funded by partner agencies. There are 51 staff seconded to the ACIC from 11 partner agencies including state and territory police jurisdictions in addition to the aforementioned 321 taskforce members.

Overseas as at May 2022

s 47E(d) [Redacted]

ACIC currently has **s 47E(d)** long term deployees based offshore **s 47E(d)**

[Redacted]

s 47E(d), s 37(2)(b) [Redacted]

ACIC Intelligence Operations

TSOC networks are resilient, adaptable, and increasingly tech- and cyber-savvy, amplifying the threat they pose to Australia and our partners. Networks operate across a spectrum of crime types, with many engaging in multiple crime types and collaborating with one another to increase capability. The impact of TSOC in Australia is significant, with serious and organised crime estimated to have cost Australia \$60.1 billion in 2020-21, including \$43.7 billion in direct costs and \$16.4 billion in prevention and response costs.

Our work to deliver intelligence on serious and organised crime threats to Australia forms part of all our activities, and contributes to our purpose by:

- making Australia hostile to serious and organised crime through delivering disruption outcomes and intelligence insights
- providing timely and targeted intelligence products to inform government and industry and fill strategic policy and legislative gaps
- supporting broader law enforcement operations.

Our unique role in bringing together law enforcement and the National Intelligence Community underpins our success in building operational strategy, synergising effort and leading intelligence initiatives.

Current intelligence priorities

The ACIC Board determines the National Criminal Intelligence Priorities, which direct our work and influence the work of our partners. We provide advice on the priorities, and use them to establish nationally and internationally focused intelligence collection and analysis initiatives.

Our current priority crime themes cover:

- gangs and networks
- firearms
- drugs
- cybercrime
- serious financial crime
- illicit tobacco
- child exploitation
- highest risk serious and organised crime
- national security threats.

The Board also authorises, by determination, special ACIC operations and special ACIC investigations to occur. Special ACIC operations focus on gathering intelligence on a particular criminal activity. Special ACIC investigations not only collect intelligence but also help to disrupt and deter identified criminal groups by collecting evidence of criminal activity that may result in arrests and/or seizures of illegally obtained assets.

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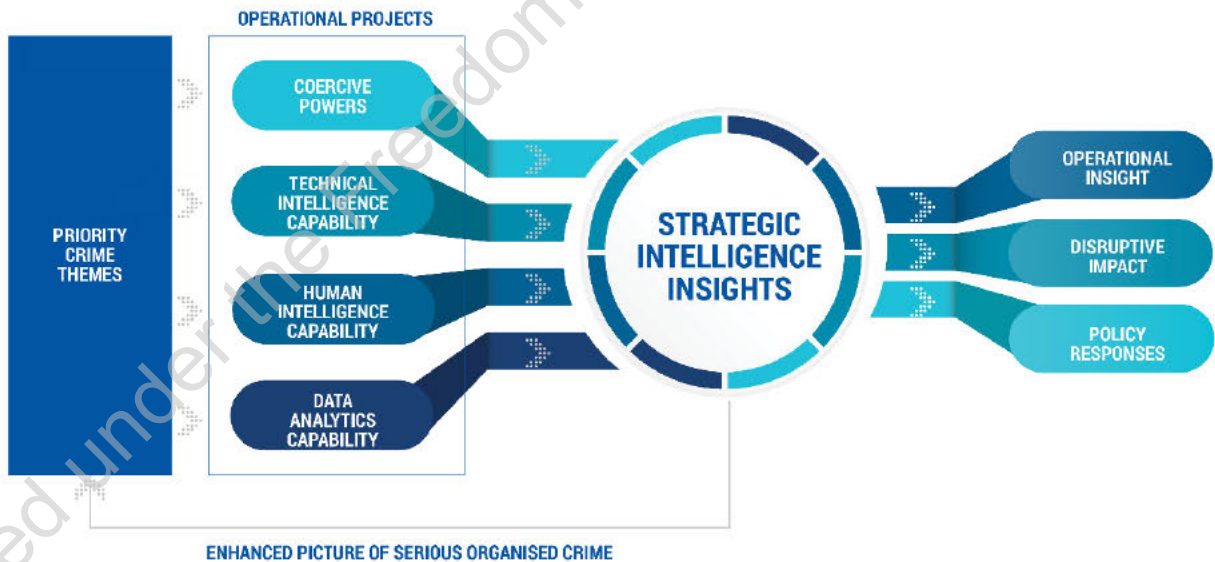
The Board has authorised the following special ACIC operations and investigations:

- High Risk and Emerging Drugs
- National Security Impacts from Serious Organised Crime
- Outlaw Motor Cycle Gangs
- Emerging Organised Crime Threats
- Criminal Exploitation of Australia’s Migration System
- Cyber-Related Offending
- Firearm Trafficking
- Highest Risk Criminal Targets
- Targeting Criminal Wealth
- s 47E(d), s 37(2)(b)

s 47C, s 47E(1),

ACIC Pillars of core collection capabilities

Our criminal intelligence delivery is based on 4 pillars of core collection capabilities: coercive powers, technical intelligence, human intelligence and data analytics. These capability pillars are used to derive strategic intelligence insights, inform disruption strategies, generate operational insights and identify policy, legislative and regulatory responses that harden the environment against criminal exploitation.



Coercive powers capability

Where the Board has authorised a special ACIC investigation or special ACIC operation to occur, ACIC examiners, who are independently appointed statutory office holders, may exercise coercive powers under Division 2 of the ACC Act for the purpose of that special ACIC investigation or special ACIC operation. The coercive powers allow an Examiner to summon a person to give evidence at an examination and compel them to answer the questions asked of them. Examiners may also require a person to produce documents or things. Division 2 also empowers an Examiner to request or require information from certain Commonwealth agencies and, where arrangements are in place, certain state agencies.

A range of ancillary processes enable the ACIC Examiner to secure compliance with the summons. These include court-issued warrants for the arrest of a person to ensure that the person attends an examination, and court orders for the production of an examinee's passport.

Additionally, eligible persons—that is, ACIC examiners or members of the staff of the ACIC who are also constables—may apply for search warrants to search for things relevant to a special ACIC investigation or operation that is occurring, in circumstances where there is a risk that the item or document would be concealed, lost, mutilated or destroyed if a summons to produce it were issued. The ACC Act also provides for criminal offences and contempt procedures which apply to individuals who do not comply with the exercise of the ACIC's coercive powers.

Technical intelligence capability

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Advanced analytics capability

Data analytics plays a critical role in our intelligence operations. The ACIC has unique powers to compel the production of, collect and hold data.

ACIC's expert staff use cutting-edge methodologies and technologies to analyse data. The results inform intelligence insights that are used internally, as well as by clients and stakeholders in law

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enforcement and other government agencies. ACIC's bulk data analysis and bulk matching services facilitate the production of high-quality intelligence products and outcomes.

ACIC also builds analytics tools for analysts and investigators, so that they can exploit ACIC data holdings in an efficient and effective way and get the most out of the data. ACIC will transform and enhance this advanced data analytics capability, to better leverage datasets and identify previously unknown linkages, and to harden the environment against transnational serious and organised crime.

Strategic and operational insights

The ACIC's strategic and operational insights products provide new insights into serious and organised crime threats, groups, vulnerabilities, methodologies and markets. These products reflect key strategic observations and learnings from ACIC and partner intelligence and investigations, often gathered using coercive powers or covert capabilities.

Intended for stakeholders with an in-depth understanding of the organised crime environment, strategic insights products provide decision-makers with a quick understanding of changes or emerging issues or threats. They inform and influence appropriate operational, regulatory and policy responses.

Key initiative: Serious and Organised Crime Risk Assessment (SOCRA)

The SOCRA is the ACIC's triennial classified report that delivers a current intelligence picture of the serious and organised crime environment in Australia, through assessment of the current illicit markets and enabling activities. The SOCRA was most recently delivered in 2019. The next SOCRA report is due to be released by the end of the 2022 calendar year.

The ACIC also produces an unclassified version of this report, Organised Crime in Australia, which was last released in 2017.

Key initiative: National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) provides leading-edge, coordinated national research and intelligence on illicit drugs and licit drugs that can be abused, with a specific focus on methylamphetamine and other substances. The report gains valuable insights into trends in consumption across Australia, between capital and regional areas, and the priorities of SOC groups that supply illicit drug markets.

The ACIC now has five years of data from 15 reports based on frequent sampling. The ACIC released its 15th report on 8 March 2022. Insights from Report 15 (August 2020-August 2021) determines national consumption of methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA and heroin all decreased, resulting in a decrease in the combined total annual consumption for the first time since the program began in 2016. Totalling 4.7 tonnes, this drop represents a **23 per cent decrease** in overall drug consumption within these markets over the course of only one year.

Operational intelligence shows that overall, illicit drug wholesale and street prices rose during this period, which is consistent with reduced supply. While law enforcement supply reduction and other operational activities do lead to short term falls in drug consumption, and likely contributed to some market changes in 2020-21, the magnitude, breadth and duration of the decreases between Year 4 and Year 5 of the Program, coupled with the observed price increases, were almost certainly primarily driven by COVID-19 movement and border restrictions.

Despite the 23 per cent fall in consumption between Years 4 and 5, the consumption of an estimated 15.7 tonnes of the 4 major illicit drugs demonstrates that organised crime groups continued to find ways to supply the illicit drug markets during the COVID-related restrictions. There are early signs, yet to be confirmed by further wastewater testing, that there is some market recovery in the capital cities for methylamphetamine and cocaine. Even with decreased

consumption of the 4 major illicit drugs, the estimated street value of these in Year 5 was \$10.3 billion, up from \$8.9 billion in Year 4, due to increasing drug prices.

Data continued to demonstrate the resilience of Australia's illicit drugs. Organised crime groups continued to find ways to supply all 4 drug markets (methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA and heroin). There are early signs of recovery in the capital cities for methylamphetamine and cocaine, demonstrating ongoing demand and capability of SOC groups to restore supply to these markets.

Task forces

The evidence and intelligence gathering activities of special ACIC investigations and special ACIC operations are informed by, and contribute to, the work of task forces that support collaboration between partners seeking to disrupt criminal enterprises through intelligence-led responses.

The ACIC Board establishes ACIC taskforces and approves the partner agencies which may nominate staff to participate in an ACIC task force. The partner agency participants are members of the staff of the ACIC for the purposes of the board-established task forces, and work collaboratively within the framework of each task force to achieve its objectives.

Key initiative: APOT Disruption Unit (ADU)

The Australian Priority Organisation Target (APOT) initiative commenced in late 2017 and is designed to identify, and inform stakeholders of, the highest threat serious and organised crime targets based offshore impacting Australia's interests. The intent is to improve understanding and facilitate collaborative domestic and international targeting effort.

s 47E(d)

The ADU works with global to local law enforcement and national intelligence partners to disrupt Australia's highest priority TSOC networks. This is achieved through mapping APOT networks according to critical capabilities, coordinating and sequencing new and existing agency effort via joint agency APOT disruption strategies (JAADS), and identifying ongoing target development opportunities. An operational effects team drives operational strategies and effects as part of overarching JAAD strategies.

APOTs represent the top tier of offshore and transnational organised criminal targets impacting on Australia. As at March 2022 there are 17 entities identified on the APOT list. Most are involved in illicit drugs and money laundering and typically fulfil supplier, broker, controller, organiser and other facilitation roles.

Use of encrypted communications is considered business as usual for all transnational, serious and organised criminals. APOTs and other transnational, serious and organised criminals have also been involved in the introduction and financing of encrypted communications platforms.

National Policing Information Systems and Services

The ACIC has responsibility for a number of critical law enforcement information sharing systems and services.

The National Criminal Intelligence System (NCIS) is being delivered in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs the ACIC is the system owner and the Department is responsible for delivering the technical solution.

The ACIC and Department are working closely together to assess the efficiencies and effectiveness of this arrangement, which could be leveraged through further similar arrangements for the ongoing delivery of other national policing information systems and services which the ACIC provides. The full range of systems the ACIC has responsibility for is below.

National Criminal Intelligence System

The NCIS will give Australia's law enforcement and intelligence agencies the first truly national and unified picture of criminal activity. NCIS will be a whole of government capability, which operates in a secure, national information sharing environment. The aim of NCIS is to strengthen criminal information and intelligence sharing across law enforcement agencies, jurisdictions and the criminal intelligence community. The new system will provide secure access to a national view of criminal intelligence and information, and support the collation and sharing of criminal intelligence and information.

NCIS will improve officer safety by providing a national view of crime that can be presented to frontline operations, providing targeted, timely, relevant, prioritised national policing information. It will include a consolidated national view of fact-based policing and incident information, tools for improved analytics and deconfliction between investigations, and alerts and indicators for entities and activities of interest.

During 2020-21, NCIS went live nationally in an operational exposure phase, with all police agencies and the ACIC using the system. Significant benefits are already being realised by front line police agencies to this nationally coordinated database.

Biometrics

National Automated Fingerprint Identification System

The National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) is a finger and palm print database and matching system, which has operated since 2001 and is supported by IDEMIA. Police agencies use this system to help solve crime and identify individuals by establishing a person's identity from fingerprint and palm impressions. The system is also used by the Department of Home Affairs to support Australia's migration programme.

The ACIC is working with partner agencies to develop the new version of the system, NAFIS NextGen. This will ensure that fingerprint identification capability used by all police partner agencies continues to be supported while delivering increased efficiencies for partner agency staff.

ballistic evidence to the weapon used in the crime or to link crimes if the same firearm is used at multiple scenes.

TSOC networks continue to prefer conventional firearms over 3D printed firearms (including hybrids), although 3D printing technology is improving rapidly, with new material in use and commercially available. Since 2004 the ACIC has traced 4,867 commercially manufactured handguns—in the same time period four 3D printed firearms were traced. s 47C

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Police Reference Services

National Police Reference System

The National Police Reference System (NPRS) is available to over 74,000 law enforcement personnel across Australia, enabling them to share essential policing information with each another. The NPRS provides key reference data to support police officers, investigators and analysts. The NPRS records core data such as name, identity information and photographs, information on s 37(2)(b), s 47E(d) warrants and wanted persons, offence history, protection and violence orders, firearms involvements, and information relating to the child protection register. The NPRS also contains information on missing persons, unidentified persons and bodies, and escapees. (Note: the NPRS will be superseded by the NCIS once fully rolled out).

National Vehicles of Interest

The National Vehicles of Interest (NVOI) system continues to be relied upon by police partner agencies as an important tool to stamp out motor vehicle theft and other crime and allows police partner agencies to record and enquire on both local and interstate vehicles of interest. NVOI also allows users to access search services provided by the National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS) hosted by Austroads.

Domestic Violence

ACIC Court Portal

In December 2015, the Council of Australian Government (COAG) agreed to introduce a National Domestic Violence Order Scheme (NDVOS) so that Domestic Violence Orders issued in one jurisdiction were automatically recognised and enforceable across Australia.

The Interim Order Reference Solution (IORS) project delivered the ACIC Court Portal in November 2017, in line with the NDVOS scheme being implemented.

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National Police Checking Service

To help protect the Australian community, the ACIC works together with Australian police agencies to deliver the National Police Checking Service (NPCS or the Service). The Service conducts Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Checks, commonly referred to as police checks. Police checks enable controlled access to an individual's disclosable police history information, from all Australian states and territories, in line with their respective spent convictions legislation and/or information release policies.

In addition to the State and Territory Police Services, there are approximately 195 'accredited bodies' which are accredited by the NPCS to provide National Police Checks. These include government agencies, private sector businesses, not-for-profit organisations and screening units for working with children or vulnerable people.

The revenue derived from charging for national coordinated criminal history checks is held in the Special Account.

PROTECTED



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2022–26

An Australia hostile to criminal exploitation.

PURPOSE

TO PROTECT AUSTRALIA FROM SERIOUS CRIMINAL THREATS THROUGH COORDINATING A STRATEGIC RESPONSE AND COLLECTING, ASSESSING AND DISSEMINATING INTELLIGENCE AND POLICING INFORMATION.

OPERATING CONTEXT



PERVASIVE CRIMINAL THREATS



SERVICE DELIVERY



PARTNERSHIPS



COMPLEXITY OF FUNDING SOURCES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

TRUSTED SOURCE OF CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

- ▶ Relentlessly pursue transnational serious and organised crime threats with partners.
- ▶ Maximise use of our coercive powers and other intelligence collection capabilities to deliver actionable intelligence and strategic insights.
- ▶ Detect changes in the criminal threat landscape by generating intelligence that identifies emerging trends.
- ▶ Leverage our unique role, and innovative targeting strategies, to support disruption activities against the highest priority transnational serious and organised crime networks.

PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE COMMONWEALTH AND POLICING INTELLIGENCE

- ▶ Deliver the National Criminal Intelligence System (NCIS) capability to provide the first truly national and unified picture of criminal activities.
- ▶ Ensure suitable National Policing Information (NPI) systems are positioned to transition into the NCIS capability to allow access to information through a single interface.
- ▶ Deliver NPI systems that meet stakeholder needs and are accessible, reliable, secure and trusted.

KEEP THE COMMUNITY SAFE

- ▶ Deliver world-class background checking services, including criminal intelligence assessments, to support employment or entitlement decisions.
- ▶ Invest in the National Police Checking Service (NPCS) to drive down turnaround times.
- ▶ Transform the NPCS to support digital delivery, secure certificates and improved employment and entitlement decision-making by including additional relevant data.

DELIVER A SUSTAINABLE AGENCY

- ▶ The ACIC is funded to continue to deliver capabilities that meet board agreed priorities.
- ▶ Modernise the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002* to ensure that the right powers are available to respond to new and emerging criminal threats.
- ▶ Align corporate services to deliver strategic priorities.
- ▶ Leverage whole-of-government opportunities to maximise capability.

CAPABILITIES

PARTNERSHIPS

- ▶ Intelligence operations and insights
- ▶ Strategic stakeholder engagement and advisory committees
- ▶ Links with national intelligence and law enforcement communities

NATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- ▶ Data management and brokerage
- ▶ Criminal intelligence and information services

TRADECRAFT

- ▶ Coercive powers
- ▶ Covert collections
- ▶ Advanced analytics
- ▶ Intelligence insights

BACKGROUND CHECKING

- ▶ Criminal intelligence assessments
- ▶ Nationally coordinated criminal history checks
- ▶ Accurate and timely checks

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Technology
- ▶ Workforce
- ▶ Legislation and policy
- ▶ Integrity and compliance

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



DRIVEN BY VALUES OF RESPECT, INTEGRITY AND INNOVATION



ALWAYS IN PARTNERSHIP



ACCURATE, TIMELY AND RELIABLE DATA AND INFORMATION



SUPERIOR TRADCRAFT



HIGHLY TRAINED AND SKILLED STAFF