Document 1

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AUSTRALIAN CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE COMMISSION

INCOMING GOVERNMENT BRIEF

AGENCY PRIORITIES

MAY 2025

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AGENCY OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

TO PROTECT AUSTRALIA FROM SERIOUS CRIMINAL THREATS BY COLLECTING, ASSESSING AND DISSEMINATING INTELLIGENCE AND POLICING INFORMATION

AGENCY PRIORITIES

Implement the ACIC Review recommendations

Pending parliamentary approval, the ACIC will **implement comprehensive legislative reform**, enhancing our impact as Australia's national criminal intelligence agency.

The ACIC is implementing a new operating model enabling us to deliver more timely and relevant intelligence to partners on the highest priority serious and organised crime threats.

Ongoing sustainable funding model

As outlined in the ACIC Review and agreed government response,
s 47E(d), s 47C [redacted]

LEGISLATION AND OVERSIGHT

Authorising framework	External oversight
ACC Act	Inter-Governmental Committee of the Australian Crime Commission (IGC-ACC)
Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act	ACIC Board
Surveillances Devices Act	Commonwealth Ombudsman
Surveillance Legislation Amendment (Identify and Disrupt) Act SLAID	Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS)
Crimes Act	Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement (PJCLE)
	Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS)
	Courts

BUDGET ($M)

ACIC funding	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29
Revenue from government	145.551	162.702	104.678	103.468	104.833
Own source revenue*	177.059	173.092	174.774	173.905	175.622
Total funding	**322.610**	**335.794**	**279.452**	**277.373**	**280.455**

* Special account – legislative restrictions on use for NPI

SERVICE DELIVERY

Intelligence services

The ACIC delivers tactical, operational and strategic intelligence products to partners and responds to requests for information from a diverse range of agencies. We use a range of specialist capabilities, including coercive hearings and notices, human source intelligence, covert technical collection and data analytics, to collect information, which is analysed to discover new criminal threats and to develop insights about the criminal environment to inform appropriate action.

The ACIC also conducts criminal intelligence assessments (CIAs) s 37(2)(b) [redacted]

National policing information systems

17 NPI systems managed

The ACIC manages 17 national policing information (NPI) systems including the National Criminal Intelligence System and National Firearms Register.

>71,000 police officers and other accredited users enabled

Enables more than 71,000 police officers and other accredited users to undertake operational policing and intelligence activities, and ensure community safety.

National Police Checking Service

The ACIC's National Police Checking Service delivers background checking services that support employment, Australia's immigration and citizenship programs, and reduces the risk of appointing someone unsuitable to a position of trust.

In 2023–24, the ACIC processed 7.2 million nationally coordinated criminal history checks, generating revenue in excess of $134 million to reinvest in developing and maintaining NPI systems.

7.2m checks processed

$134m revenue generated

INTELLIGENCE PRIORITIES

- Drug trafficking
- Border infiltration and circumvention
- Serious financial crimes
- Weapons trafficking
- Human exploitation
- Technology manipulation or exploitation
- National security / transnational serious and organised crime nexus
- Illicit trade in natural resources

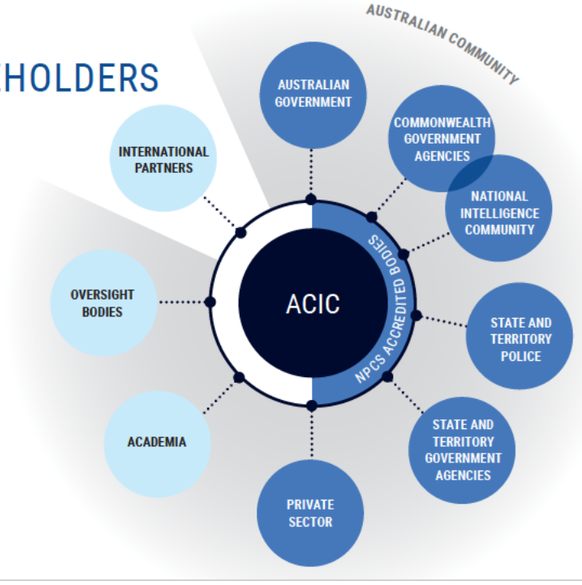
s 47E(d) [redacted]

MINISTERIAL OBLIGATIONS

In addition to being the responsible Commonwealth minister for the ACIC, under the *Australian Crime Commission Act* (ACC Act) key responsibilities include:

- Approval of expenditure from the NPI Systems and Services Special Account
- Making of determinations in relation to the charges, which will apply to the provision of national police checks
- Chairing the Inter-Governmental Committee on the Australian Crime Commission (IGC-ACC)
- Initiating an independent review of the operation of the ACC Act every 5 years under Section 61A of the ACC Act.

ACIC STAKEHOLDERS



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s 47E(d), s 37(1)(a), s 37(2)(b)

s 47E(d)

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME COSTS AUSTRALIA UP TO

$68.7 BILLION

ANNUALLY

s 47E(d)

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CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE PRIORITIES

Below are the ACIC's criminal intelligence priorities and the current key areas under consideration. In addressing these priorities, the ACIC uses its suite of collection, analysis and assessment capabilities to inform our understanding of the transnational serious and organised crime environment and its impact on Australia. We share our criminal intelligence insights and work closely with national and international partners to inform and develop strategies to combat the threat and harden the environment.

ENDURING THREATS

DRUG TRAFFICKING

s 47E(d) [redacted]

SERIOUS FINANCIAL CRIMES

s 47E(d) [redacted]

s 47E(d) [redacted]

BORDER INFILTRATION AND CIRCUMVENTION

s 47E(d) [redacted]

WEAPONS TRAFFICKING

s 47E(d) [redacted]

s 47E(d) [redacted]

TECHNOLOGY MANIPULATION OR EXPLOITATION

s 47E(d) [redacted]

HUMAN EXPLOITATION

s 47E(d) [redacted]

s 47E(d) [redacted]

INVOLVEMENT OR SUPPORT BY SOC ACTORS VIOLATING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

s 47E(d) [redacted]

ILLEGAL TRADE IN NATURAL RESOURCES

s 47E(d) [redacted]

s 47E(d) [redacted]

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IMPLEMENTING YOUR AGENDA

The ACIC is committed to implementing the government's agenda by delivering the endorsed recommendations of the *Independent Review of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and associated Commonwealth law enforcement arrangements* (ACIC Review). The agency appreciates the government's support in commissioning and responding to the ACIC Review, which clearly outlines a need for a standalone, specialised criminal intelligence agency with a focus on transnational serious and organised crime (TSOC).

The government commissioned the ACIC Review to assess the operations and effectiveness of the ACIC as Australia's national criminal intelligence agency to ensure the agency's functions, powers and legislation meet current and future priorities. The Government agreed – or agreed in principle – with 27 of the recommendations and noted the remaining 2. The agency considers the ACIC Review recommendations to be a significant positive step for the future of the agency. Implementation of the ACIC Review recommendations is critical to support the national approach and strategy to combat TSOC across law enforcement, intelligence, policy and regulatory domains.

The ACIC's current legislative context is significantly complex which creates risk for both the agency in the exercise of its functions and for government, s 47E(d) [redacted]

Implementing the ACIC Review recommendations will resolve these challenges by facilitating comprehensive and necessary reform of the agency's legislative and governance frameworks, thereby clarifying and strengthening the agency's role as Australia's national criminal intelligence agency. The proposed reforms will enable the ACIC to access its operational powers for intelligence purposes under a model similar to that applied to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation. The proposed legislative reform – in respect of defined purpose and thresholds – will ensure the agency can apply its operational powers where policing agencies cannot, allowing the agency to add more unique intelligence value in support of national efforts to disrupt TSOC impacting Australia.

To date the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) has been the lead entity for delivery of 14 ACIC Review recommendations mainly related to legislative change, with the ACIC the lead for the remainder. The agency has completed implementation of 4 recommendations (Recommendations 17, 18, 19 and 20). The ACIC notes responsibility will transition from AGD to the Department of Home Affairs (Department) in line with Machinery of Government changes and the agency will continue to work closely with your Department to implement the ACIC Review, particularly as it relates to legislative change. The agency and Department will provide you with regular progress reporting on implementation.

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AUSTRALIA'S CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

The ACIC provides unique, actionable, and insightful intelligence to combat the threats Australia faces from TSOC. The impact of TSOC on Australia is profound: TSOC undermines border security through increasingly covert methods and trusted insider networks to bypass controls; TSOC harms communities – fuelling violence, addiction and exploitation – while costing Australia in excess of A$68.7 billion annually in lost Government revenue, health and law enforcement. This cost exceeds Australia's current annual Defence budget, underscoring the immense scale of the threat and the formidable challenges involved in tackling it.

A coordinated, sophisticated, intelligence-led response is essential to mitigate the impact of TSOC, safeguard Australia's borders and ensure the safety and resilience of communities. The ACIC – as Australia's agency dedicated exclusively to combating TSOC and as the national custodian for highly sensitive criminal data and police information – will apply its unique position and capabilities to support and uplift a whole-of-government response.

KEY PRIORITIES

The ACIC's highest priorities are:

- implementing the ACIC Review recommendations (as noted under *Implementing your agenda)*
- securing new governing legislation
- securing sustainable ongoing funding.

Delivery of these priorities is critical to ensure the ACIC can effectively and efficiently fulfil its functions.

The ACIC can deliver a comprehensive briefing on the implementation of the ACIC Review, which details the agency's future operating model and its sustainable ongoing funding requirement.

New governing legislation

As recommended by the ACIC Review, the repeal and replacement of the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002* (ACC Act) is critical to align the ACIC's functions with its role as a criminal intelligence agency. AGD is leading the work to repeal and replace the ACC Act in close consultation with the ACIC and other stakeholders (including state and territory law enforcement agencies). AGD has advised its intent to have the bill ready for listing for the Spring 2025 sitting period and it is crucial that priority status for these reforms is maintained.

Aligning the ACIC's powers and thresholds with its criminal intelligence function will differentiate the agency from law enforcement agencies and enhance its national and international value proposition in the fight against TSOC. New legislation would give the agency more agility in the collection of intelligence, particularly in the initial discovery phase where it is seeking to identify criminal methodologies and map criminal networks.

Under existing legislative frameworks, the ACIC is generally characterised as a law enforcement agency. The exercise of relevant powers relies on the ACIC meeting legislative thresholds, including requiring that an investigation is underway for specific identified offences. While investigation and

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intelligence activities may overlap, the agency is forced to rely on powers typically designed for evidence collection to collect intelligence.

New governing legislation is being developed in line with the following principles:

- Powers should be adapted to support intelligence functions and enable the ACIC to be anticipatory and agile in the collection of information and intelligence, particularly in the initial discovery phase.
- Intelligence should support Commonwealth, state and territory law enforcement partners to combat serious and organised crime (SOC).
- Legislation should support timely information and intelligence dissemination to partners.
- Intelligence should be used as evidence only in limited circumstances and where methodologies and capabilities can be protected.
- Use of powers should be accompanied by oversight and safeguard arrangements reflective of intelligence frameworks.

Sustainable ongoing funding model

s 47C [redacted]

The agency received funding of $51.4 million over one year in Budget 2025-26 to sustain its operations and intelligence capabilities and to commence urgent remediation of some critical enabling capabilities. s 47E(d), s 47C [redacted]

s 47C [redacted]

Act 1982 (Cth)

ACIC Budget context and history

Recommendation 27 of the ACIC Review proposed the ACIC be provided a base level of funding sufficient to ensure uplift and staffing required to support its remit as Australia's national criminal intelligence agency and sustain its capabilities including coercive examinations, technical intelligence, human intelligence and data analytics.

The ACIC's current operating and capital budget is not fit for purpose. Since the agency's establishment in 2016, the baseline funding – including the capacity of the National Policing Information (NPI) Systems and Services Special Account – has not been reviewed. Annual terminating operational funding injections – which currently make up 34% of the appropriation sustaining the agency's core intelligence capabilities – s 47E(d) [redacted]

s 47E(d) [redacted]

s 47E(d) [redacted]

s 47E(d) [redacted]

Additionally, the ACIC's current annual Departmental Capital Budget allocation of $2.8 million is insufficient to sustain and develop the agency's ageing capabilities. s 47E(d) [redacted]

s 47E(d) [redacted]

s 47C [redacted]

Rel

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to being the responsible Commonwealth Minister for the ACIC, under the ACC Act key responsibilities of the Minister include:

- approval of expenditure from the *National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account* (section 59E of the ACC Act)
- making of determinations in relation to the charges, which will apply to the provision of national police checks (subsection 7C(7) of the ACC Act)
- initiating an independent review of the operation of the ACC Act every 5 years (section 61A of the ACC Act)
    - The 2024 ACIC Review most recently fulfilled this legislative requirement.
- chairing the Inter-Governmental Committee on the Australian Crime Commission (IGC-ACC) a minimum of twice per year (section 8 of the ACC Act).
    - Page 12 of the ACIC's Agency Overview document provides further detail on the IGC-ACC.

NEXT 3 MONTHS

Matters for attention in the next 3 months include:

- consideration of ACIC Board recommendation on national policing information charges
    - Subsection 7C(7) of the ACC Act requires the ACIC Board to recommend to the responsible Minister whether to vary or retain the legislative instrument that imposes charges for nationally coordinated criminal history checks.
      This recommendation must be submitted to the Minister by 30 June each year.
- s 47E(d) [redacted]
- s 47E(d) [redacted]
- noting of Report 24 of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) s 47E(d) [redacted]

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ISSUES FOR MINISTERIAL AWARENESS

s 42(1) [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[

s 42(1) [redacted]

SUGGESTED BRIEFINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

s 47E(d) [redacted]

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ACIC Future Operating Model

This briefing will present a comprehensive overview of the ACIC's future operating model, highlighting the critical need for a sustainable funding framework to maintain the agency's effectiveness in combating TSOC. The briefing will detail the agency's strategic vision for enhancing its intelligence capabilities and operational efficiency, ensuring the agency remains at the forefront of Australia's efforts to combat TSOC.

In addition, the briefing will address several key legislative reforms and proposed changes to oversight bodies that impact the ACIC. It will provide an in-depth overview of the legislative landscape affecting the agency and outline the necessary reforms to ensure the agency's continued effectiveness in safeguarding Australia's national security.

National Criminal Intelligence System demonstration

The National Criminal Intelligence System (NCIS) is a pivotal initiative that provides Australian law enforcement and intelligence agencies with secure access to a comprehensive national view of criminal information and intelligence within a single system. This briefing will highlight how system integration is enhancing information sharing across state, territory, and federal jurisdictions, significantly improving the ability to address and prevent criminal activity. By equipping agencies with the cross-border information they need, when they need it, NCIS contributes to a safer Australia – accelerating the solving of crime.

National Firearms Register briefing

The National Firearms Register (NFR) is a critical initiative designed to ensure that police across all Australian jurisdictions have timely and accurate information to assess firearms-related risks and protect the community. This briefing will cover the key functionalities and benefits of the NFR, including how the NFR will deliver these capabilities in near-real time – integrating firearms-related information with key risk data, including police intelligence and criminal records – to create a comprehensive view that enhances decision-making and operational efficiency.

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INCOMING GOVERNMENT BRIEF

AGENCY OVERVIEW

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ACIC OVERVIEW AND FUNCTIONS

The ACIC is a Commonwealth statutory agency established under the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002* (ACC Act) with roles and functions underpinned by state and territory legislation.

The ACIC provides unique, actionable and insightful intelligence to combat the threats Australia faces from transnational serious and organised crime (TSOC). The agency's intelligence informs and supports efforts to tackle a problem that costs Australia up to $68 billion per year.

Working collaboratively with law enforcement partners, the National Intelligence Community (NIC), regulators and policy agencies, the ACIC delivers a diverse suite of criminal intelligence products, services, analysis and advice. The agency has an integrated view of crime made possible through its connected systems and unique capabilities that it uses to cooperate and collaborate with domestic and international partners to confront the threat posed by TSOC.

The ACIC's criminal intelligence insights build awareness and influence strategies to harden the environment and create new opportunities to combat TSOC. This drives delivery of the agency's vision of an Australia hostile to criminal exploitation.

The ACIC is part of the Home Affairs portfolio and is a member of the NIC.

The ACIC is a non-corporate Commonwealth entity for the purposes of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the accountable authority of the agency for the purposes of the PGPA Act. The CEO is also the Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology.

The ACIC's organisational structure and biographies for the CEO, Deputy CEO Intelligence, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology are at Attachment A.

Purpose and functions

The purpose of the ACIC is to protect Australia from serious criminal threats by collecting, assessing and disseminating intelligence and policing information.

To perform our role and achieve our purpose we:

- collect, correlate, analyse and disseminate criminal intelligence and information
- maintain a national criminal intelligence database
- develop strategic criminal intelligence assessments and advice on national criminal intelligence priorities
- undertake special ACIC investigations and special ACIC operations on crime priorities
- provide and maintain systems that allow information sharing for policing and law enforcement agencies
- provide nationally coordinated criminal history checks
- conduct criminal intelligence assessments in respect to applications for Aviation and Maritime Security Identity Cards (ASICs and MSICs).

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The ACIC conducts its business through the delivery of 3 areas of activity:

1. criminal intelligence services
2. national policing information systems
3. national police checking services.

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

The ACIC delivers tactical, operational and strategic intelligence products to partners and responds to requests for information from a diverse range of agencies. The agency uses a range of specialist capabilities to collect and analyse information to discover new criminal threats and to develop new insights about the criminal environment.

The ACIC's unique, actionable and insightful intelligence on the highest-level TSOC threats impacting Australia plays a critical role in bringing partners together to build operational strategies and coordinate disruption activities. The agency provides intelligence to partners to inform responses to serious and organise crime – for example, to inform regulations of precursor chemicals or hardening of government funded programs against fraud.

Between 1 July 2024 and 31 March 2025 the ACIC:

- produced s 47E(d) intelligence products
- disseminated intelligence products s 47E(d) partners
- produced intelligence that: assisted partners s 47E(d)
- produced intelligence that contributed to the seizure of drugs with a national estimated street value s 47E(d)
- s 47E(d)

National Criminal Intelligence Priorities

The National Criminal Intelligence Priorities (NCIPs), endorsed by the ACIC Board, direct the agency's and national partners' work on serious crime threats. The agency uses the NCIPs to establish national and international intelligence collection and analysis initiatives. The NCIPs are currently being updated for consideration by the ACIC Board. The key thematic areas of focus are:

enduring threats

- drug trafficking
- serious financial crimes
- border infiltration and circumvention
- weapons trafficking
- technology manipulation or exploitation
- human exploitation

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threats under assessment

- involvement or support by serious and organised crime (SOC) actors violating our national security
- illegal trade in natural resources.

Determinations

The ACIC Board authorises special ACIC operations and special ACIC investigations by written determination under section 7C(2) and 7C(3) of the ACC Act.

The evidence and intelligence gathering activities authorised under the determinations inform and contribute to the work of board-approved task forces, which support collaborative efforts to disrupt criminal enterprises.

The current suite of determinations as listed in Table 1 were authorised in 2022. s 47E(d) [redacted]

ACTIVE BOARD-APPROVED DETERMINATIONS	DATE ESTABLISHED
Cybercrime 2022	12 December 2022 for a period of 3 years
Drugs 2022	12 December 2022 for a period of 3 years
Firearms 2022	12 December 2022 for a period of 3 years
Illicit Tobacco 2022	12 December 2022 for a period of 3 years
National Security Threats 2022	12 December 2022 for a period of 3 years
Serious Financial Crime 2022	12 December 2022 for a period of 3 years
Supply Chains (Imports & Exports) 2022	12 December 2022 for a period of 3 years
Victim-Based Crime 2022	12 December 2022 for a period of 3 years
Visa & Migration Fraud 2022	12 December 2022 for a period of 3 years

Table 1: ACIC Determinations

ACIC intelligence capabilities

The ACIC's collection, analysis and assessment capabilities (as below) are currently funded, or part-funded, by funding due to terminate s 47E(d) [redacted]

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Intelligence collection capabilities

The ACIC maintains a suite of overt and covert intelligence collection capabilities, designed to gather intelligence on high threat TSOC groups, their activities and methodologies, to inform the agency's criminal intelligence analysis and assessment work.

COERCIVE POWERS – EXAMINATIONS AND NOTICES TO PRODUCE

The ACIC has access to significant and unique coercive powers under the ACC Act. These include the power to issue a notice to produce documents and/or things (s21 ACC Act) and the power to summon an individual to give evidence or produce document and/or things (s28 ACC Act) for the purpose of a special ACIC operation/investigation. Examinations are closed legal hearings before examiners that compel witnesses to attend to answer questions. Witnesses are afforded protections from self-incrimination or prosecution related to the evidence they provide. Their involvement in the hearings is also protected by the ACC Act Secrecy provisions, as well as the focus of the agency's line/s of inquiry. Individuals appearing in examinations are legally compelled to answer questions intended to confirm or gather intelligence to address key intelligence requirements and can be prosecuted for contempt offences.

Statutory appointees – Examiners

The ACIC's coercive powers are exercised by 4 full-time examiners, who are listed in Table 2. Examiners are independent statutory officers appointed by the Governor General to exercise the coercive powers under the ACC Act. s 47E(d) [redacted]

An examiner may exercise coercive powers only where relevant for the purposes of a special ACIC operation or special ACIC investigation and only when all legislative requirements are met.

EXAMINER	APPOINTMENT	EXPIRY
s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]	1 January 2022	1 January 2027
	1 January 2022	1 January 2027
	1 January 2022	1 January 2027
	15 January 2022	15 January 2027

Table 2: ACIC Examiners

COVERT COLLECTION

The ACIC develops, delivers and deploys a number of covert intelligence collection capabilities including technical operations, physical surveillance, communications collections and encrypted criminal communications in addition to its overt collection methods. TSOC groups rapidly evolve their methodologies, including the use of new technologies, to both expand and diversify their criminal enterprises, and obscure and conceal their activity from authorities. Continual improvement and investment in the agency's covert intelligence collection capabilities is necessary to maintain pace with the adoption of technologies. s 47E(d) [redacted] s 47E(d) [redacted]

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

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

BULK DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYTICS

Bulk data collection and analytics capabilities play a critical role in developing unique and insightful criminal intelligence. The ACIC has powers to compel the production, collection and retention of data. The agency also builds analytics tools for analysts and investigators, so that they can harness our data holdings in an efficient and effective way. s 47E(d) [redacted]

Intelligence analysis capability

The ACIC's intelligence analysis capability develops criminal intelligence insights by identifying and investigating patterns and anomalies, drawing intelligence value from large volumes of information, solving complex problems and developing subject matter expertise to produce high-quality advice.

The ACIC's intelligence analysts develop a range of criminal intelligence products and advice for a broad range of stakeholders and partners to inform policy and operational decision-making to target TSOC entities and their enablers and harden the environment against TSOC threats. The agency's intelligence products provide unique and insightful intelligence that enable a holistic approach to TSOC threats targeting Australia.

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME THREAT ASSESSMENT

The Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) is the ACIC's classified report that delivers a current intelligence overview of the serious and organised crime environment impacting Australia, including challenges associated with increasingly transnational networks that are supported by an

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expanding array of enablers and technologies. The next SOCTA is due to be released in 2025 s 47E(d) [redacted]

Criminal Intelligence Assessments capability

The ACIC conducts tailored criminal intelligence assessments (CIA) to assist informing decisions on individuals' suitability to hold ASICs and/or MSICs. s 47E(d), s 37(2)(b) [redacted]

NATIONAL POLICING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

As serious and organised criminals continue to move between jurisdictions and diversify their activities, police, law enforcement agencies, intelligence, and government border partners face significant challenges. In this context, the ACIC's role in facilitating access to policing and criminal information, and intelligence holdings across Australia is crucial.

The ACIC delivers, manages and improves 17 National Policing Information (NPI) systems, including the National Criminal Intelligence System (NCIS), enabling more than 71,000 police officers and other accredited users to undertake operational policing and intelligence activities, and ensure community safety. The agency is also responsible for delivering the National Firearms Register (NFR).

The ACIC provides 3 types of systems designed to equip our partners with the information they need to investigate, solve and prevent crimes:

1. Frontline systems – enable police agencies and accredited users to rapidly access and share essential information with each other in relation to persons of interest, vehicles and firearms and ballistics. This can assist them to undertake a broad range of community policing and criminal investigations.
2. Biometric and forensic 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.
3. Protection systems – to assist police and accredited users from courts to find information on domestic violence orders and managing child sex offenders.

For more information on NPI systems see Attachment B.

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NATIONAL POLICE CHECKING SERVICE

The ACIC delivers a capability that enhances community safety by providing background checking services through the National Police Checking Service (NPCS). These services support various schemes including: Working with Children; the National Disability Insurance Scheme; and Australia's immigration and citizenship programs. The agency processed 7.2 million nationally coordinated criminal history checks and checking services generated in excess of $134 million revenue used to fund NPI systems in 2023-24.

NPCS allows individuals to apply for a nationally coordinated criminal history check, which is often required for employment, Australian citizenship, appointments to positions of trust and various forms of licensing and registration. Furthermore, NPCS plays a vital role in national security by supplying critical information to decision-makers responsible for assessing applicants seeking positions of trust within industries such as critical infrastructure, aviation, maritime, transport, health, and major event sectors.

The ACIC works with around 150 organisations that are accredited to deliver nationally coordinated criminal history checks through NCPS. Accredited bodies include Commonwealth, state and territory government departments, private companies and not-for-profit organisations. They are entrusted with access to the NPCS Support System to submit applications and retrieve check results for consenting applicants.

NPCS is a fee-based service with the revenue generated going to the National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account (Special Account) to contribute to the costs associated with providing NPI systems and services (see the ACIC's Incoming Government Brief Agency Priorities document).

The ACIC has stood up the NPCS Modernisation Program to undertake a series of projects and activities to reduce risk and vulnerabilities to the Service. This includes the development and implementation of a National Continuous Checking Capability (NCCC), which has been s 47C, s 47E(d) under the Care and Support Economy reform initiatives to strengthen working screening for those working with children and vulnerable people.

AGENCY BUDGET AND STAFFING

The ACIC receives funds principally from appropriations from the Australian Government and own source revenue as illustrated in Table 3.

Approximately 50% of the ACIC's funding is appropriated to the agency by government in the form of base funding and through government measures. As is the case for most government agencies, the annual appropriations that the agency receives are subject to efficiency dividends, indexation adjustments (up and down) and targeted savings measures.

Approximately 98% of the ACIC's own-source revenue is generated by NPCS and paid into the Special Account. Section 59E of the ACC Act stipulates that this funding must be used to support National Policing Information Systems.

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ACIC Revenue Summary	2024-25 Budget $ m	2025-26 Budget $ m	2026-27 Budget $ m	2027-28 Budget $ m	2028-29 Budget $ m
s 47C, s 47E(d)					
Total Appropriation	145.551	162.702	104.678	103.468	104.833
s 47C, s 47E(d)					
Total Sale of goods and rendering of services	175.842	171.875	173.557	172.688	174.405
s 47C, s 47E(d)					
Total Other	1.217	1.217	1.217	1.217	1.217
Total Own-Source Revenue	177.059	173.092	174.774	173.905	175.622
Total Funding	322.610	335.794	279.452	277.373	280.455

Table 3: ACIC Revenue Summary for FY 2024-25

s 47C, s 47E(d)

National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account

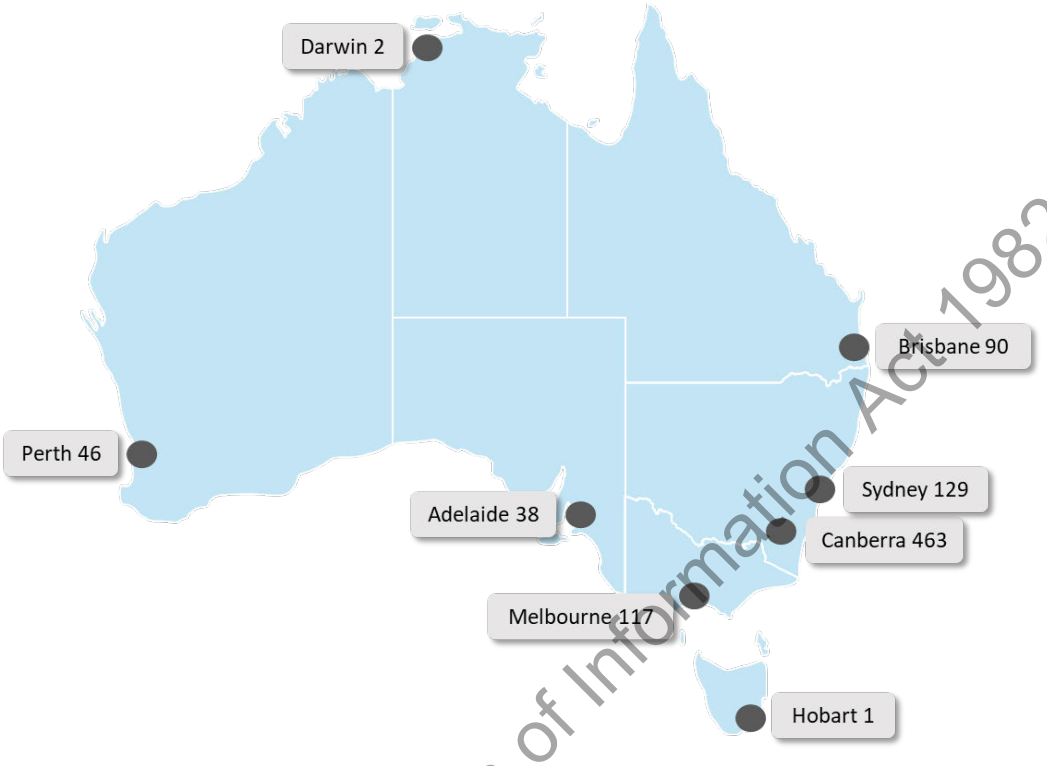
The Special Account funds the development, delivery and operation of NPI capabilities, including NPCS and systems and services such as the National Police Reference System (NPRS) and our national fingerprint and DNA databases. Section 59E of the ACC Act describes the purposes of the Special Account, while division 3 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* provides instructions on the management of funds under the Special Account.

As the vast majority of the ACIC's own source revenue is generated by NPCS, generated revenue is dependent upon employment activity around Australia, a factor outside the agency's control. The variable nature of the revenue, which is dependent on the volume of police checks, means the agency's resources fluctuate from year to year. A constrained financial outlook may impact the agency's ability to continue to maintain and uplift capability for NPI systems and services.

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Staffing

As at 29 April 2025, the ACIC had 892 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees. The agency operates from 8 locations in Australia and several overseas locations. The distribution of staff is displayed across Map 1 and Map 2.



Map 1: Australian staff footprint

Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)

S 47E(d)

EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT

Inter-Governmental Committee on the ACC

The IGC-ACC is established by section 8 of the ACC Act. The commonwealth minister with responsibility for the ACIC is the Chair and the Police Ministers of each state and territory government are members.

The IGC-ACC monitors the work and strategic direction of the ACIC and the ACIC Board, including the use of coercive powers. Under certain circumstances, the IGC-ACC has the authority to revoke an ACIC Board determination, although this power has yet to be used. Further, the IGC-ACC receives reports from the ACIC Board for transmission to the governments represented on the committee and to transmit those reports accordingly.

Section 8(5) of the ACC Act requires the IGC-ACC to meet twice per calendar year. The government has met this obligation by including an IGC-ACC item at Police Ministers Council meetings since June 2023.

ACIC Board

The ACIC Board established by section 7B of the ACC Act has the following functions:

- providing strategic direction and determining agency priorities
- determining national criminal intelligence priorities
- authorising special ACIC investigations and special ACIC operations, which allows the use of our coercive powers
- making recommendations about charges for national policing information services, including criminal history checks
- determining priorities in relation to national policing information systems and services, and providing recommendations to the minister for investment to improve, maintain and expand those systems and services.

The Board consists of the following members:

- Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police (AFP, Statutory Chair)
- Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs
- Comptroller-General of Customs (Commissioner of the Australian Border Force)
- Chairperson of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission
- Director-General of Security (Australian Security Intelligence Organisation)
- Commissioner of Taxation (Australian Taxation Office)
- the Commissioner of Police of each State and the Northern Territory
- Chief Police Officer of the Australian Capital Territory
- CEO of the ACIC (non-voting member)
- CEO of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC, non-voting observer).

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The National Policing Systems Subcommittee was established under section 7K of the ACC Act and is responsible for considering matters related to national policing systems (NPS) and the Special Account and making recommendations to the Board for endorsement.

The Government's response to the ACIC Review accepted recommendation 14, which proposed disbanding the ACIC Board following the repeal and replacement of the ACC Act. Recommendation 13 from the review proposed legislating a committee responsible for overseeing the development of National Policing Information Systems. The committee would also be responsible for providing oversight, advice and making recommendations on expenditure from the National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account.

Judicial oversight

The ACIC is accountable to the courts for the lawful and appropriate use of its powers: decisions made by the ACIC Board and Examiners in relation to ACIC examinations are subject to review by the Federal Court or the Federal Circuit Court, pursuant to the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

Independent oversight

The 2024 Independent Intelligence Review and the ACIC Review recommended the government expand the oversight jurisdiction of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) and the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) to include the ACIC and the intelligence functions of AFP, Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) and AUSTRAC. While work to implement these recommendations commenced via the Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, these changes have not been enacted.

Commonwealth Ombudsman

The Commonwealth Ombudsman (the Ombudsman) is responsible for overseeing approximately 20 agencies and their use of certain covert and intrusive powers, including the ACIC.

The Ombudsman carries out its responsibilities 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 Ombudsman is responsible for overseeing the use of data disruption warrants and account takeover warrants provided under the *Surveillance Legislation Amendment (Identify and Disrupt) Act 2021* (SLAID Act). This is consistent with the Ombudsman's current oversight the ACIC's use of electronic surveillance powers. The SLAID Act is currently under review by the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor.

Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security

The IGIS oversees Australia's intelligence agencies to ensure their actions are legal, proper, and in line with ministerial guidelines, directives, and human rights standards through regular inspections and inquiries. The IGIS currently has oversight of the ACIC in relation to the agency's use of network activity warrants under the SLAID Act.

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National Anti-Corruption Commission

The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) provides independent assurance to government about the integrity of public sector organisations and their staff members, by detecting, investigating and reporting on serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector. The ACIC is within the NACC's jurisdiction.

Parliamentary oversight

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement (PJCLE) is established by the *Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Act 2010* and 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:

- monitor and review the performance of the ACIC
- report on any matters relating to the ACIC or its performance of which the committee thinks the parliament should be aware
- examine the annual reports of the ACIC and report on any matter appearing in, or arising out of, those reports
- examine trends and changes in criminal activities, practices and methods and report on any changes to the functions, structure, powers and procedures of the ACIC that the committee thinks desirable.

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

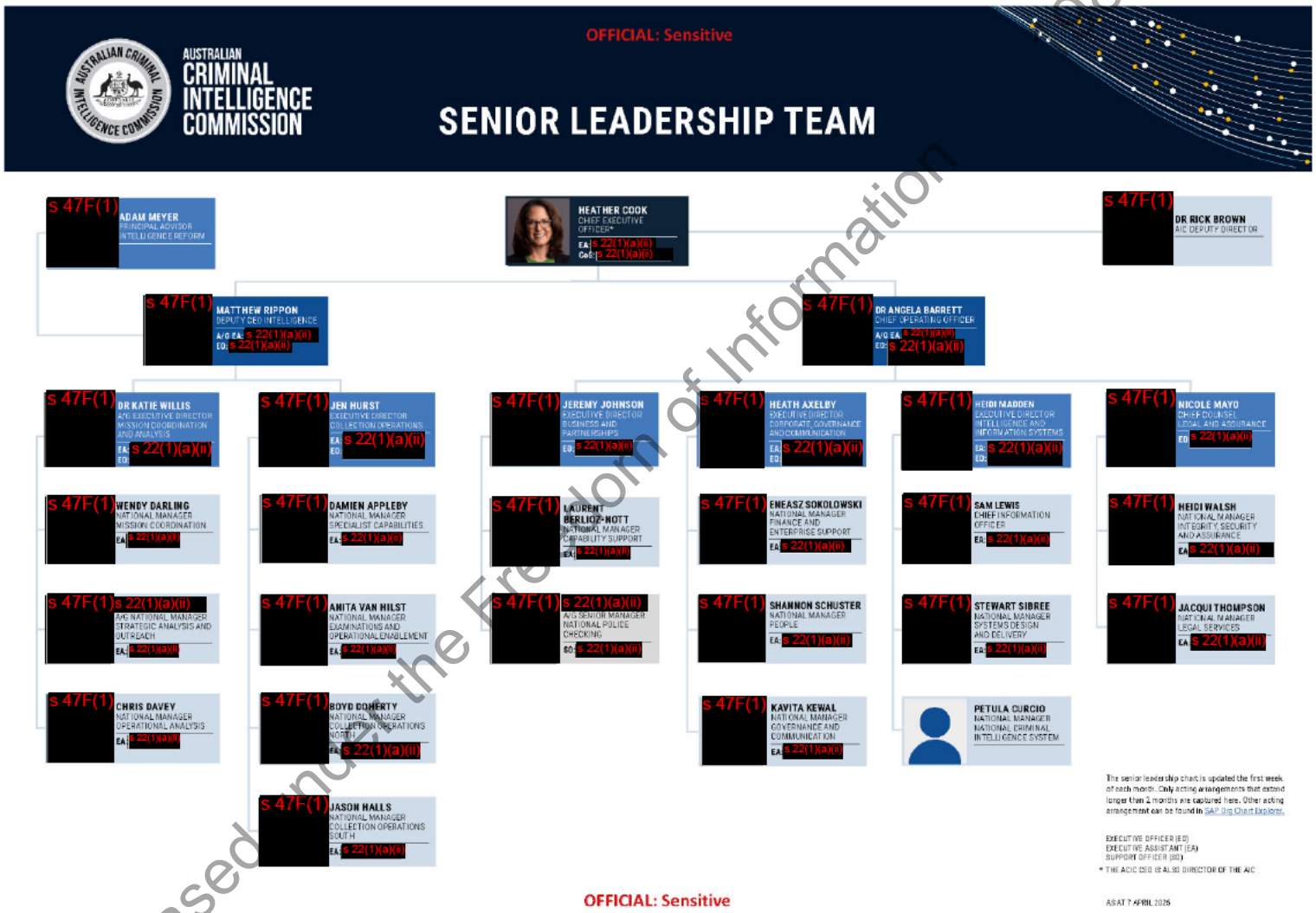
The PJCIS is constituted under section 28 of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001* and is the primary parliamentary committee with responsibilities for monitoring the performance and functions of the NIC. The PJCIS conducts inquiries into matters referred to it by the Senate, the House of Representatives or a minister of the Commonwealth Government.

While the PJCIS does not have direct functions with respect to the ACIC, it may request or require the agency to present at a hearing. The agency may also choose to make a submission to the PJCIS on any active inquiries.

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ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND BIOGRAPHIES

ATTACHMENT A



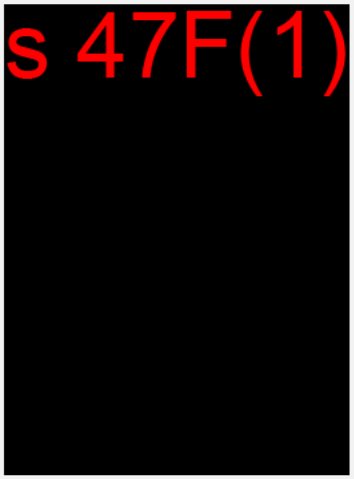
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NAME, ROLE, CONTACT DETAILS	BIOGRAPHY	PHOTO
Ms Heather Cook *Chief Executive Officer (CEO)* *Director Australian Institute of Criminology* s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Heather was appointed as the CEO of the ACIC in January 2024. She is a career intelligence professional with over 33 years of experience. She began her career with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and moved to Australia in 1995 to join the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO). Heather has worked in various operational, analytical, and strategic roles, including serving as a senior policy adviser in the Defence, Intelligence, and Security Branch of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Heather was promoted to the Senior Executive Service (SES) in 2004. She held several senior positions before becoming a Deputy Director-General of ASIO in 2015. She led the delivery of ASIO's intelligence mission and supporting capabilities for seven years. Heather has also contributed to the national security community as a member of the Distinguished Advisors panel at the National Security College at the Australian National University, where she was a guest presenter and mentor for emerging leaders. Additionally, she has a strong interest in corporate governance and has served as a Company Director in the private sector.	

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NAME, ROLE, CONTACT DETAILS	BIOGRAPHY	PHOTO
Mr Matt Rippon *Deputy CEO Intelligence* s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Matt was appointed as Deputy CEO Intelligence at the ACIC in 2021, overseeing the agency's operational strategy efforts. He is the Senior Responsible Officer for the National Criminal Intelligence System and drives strategic intelligence outcomes with national and international partners. Matt joined the ACIC in late 2018 as Executive Director Intelligence Operations, leading all international and domestic intelligence operations. He also oversaw the ACIC's coercive powers, technical and human intelligence capabilities and strategic intelligence capabilities. Matt's extensive law enforcement career began in 1995 with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), where he worked in general duties policing in Canberra and later led serious and organised crime and counter-terrorism investigations. He holds a Bachelor of Social Science and a Master of Business Administration.	s 47F(1)
Dr Angela Barrett *Chief Operating Officer* s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Angela was appointed as the Chief Operating Officer at the ACIC in August 2024 and has extensive expertise in risk management and performance reporting, governance, ministerial and parliamentary services, and corporate functions including finance, human resources, governance, information management and communications. Throughout her career Angela has worked across a number of State and Federal Government departments including the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, The Treasury, Department of Defence, Department of Social Services and Services Australia. Dr Barrett holds a Master's degree in Business and Technology and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Chemical Engineering from the University of New South Wales.	s 47F(1)

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NAME, ROLE, CONTACT DETAILS	BIOGRAPHY	PHOTO
Dr Rick Brown *Deputy Director* *Australian Institute of Criminology* s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Rick is the Deputy Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), where he oversees research and dissemination activities, including statistical monitoring and key priority research. He also manages the AIC's library and events. He has published over 70 reports, book chapters, and journal articles on crime and justice issues, and authored a book on eliminating online child sexual abuse material in 2022. Rick serves as the General Editor for all four of the AIC's publication series and is a member of several editorial boards and the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Program. Additionally, he is a Visiting Fellow at the International Policing and Justice Institute, University of Derby. With over 30 years of experience as a criminologist, Rick has worked extensively on crime prevention, community safety, and policing in Australia, the UK, and Ireland. He previously managed a research consultancy and worked as a Research Manager for the Home Office in London.	

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NPI SYSTEMS ATTACHMENT B

Frontline systems

National Criminal Intelligence System

NCIS provides Australian law enforcement and intelligence agencies with secure access to a comprehensive national view of criminal intelligence and information within a single system. This integration enhances information sharing across state, territory, and federal jurisdictions, significantly improving the ability to address and prevent criminal activity. By equipping agencies with the cross-border information they need, when they need it, NCIS contributes to a safer Australia. The system is highly valued and supported by jurisdictions and users, and its ongoing delivery and sustainment are in the national interest.

NCIS is now integrated with 21 local police systems nationally, embedded in operations and consistently used in all partner agencies alongside their local operational systems. It is used by over 50,000 users who conduct more than 4.5 million searches each month.

NCIS includes extensive operational policing incident information from our early adopter police partner agencies: Victoria Police, Western Australia Police Force, Queensland Police Service, New South Wales Police Force, Tasmania Police (Stage 1).

NCIS also includes other datasets, such as national firearms data, the ACIC National Police Reference System, and travel movements from Home Affairs.

Through NCIS, officers on the frontline can access operational policing information including offender warnings, outstanding warrants and domestic and family violence orders, which have never previously been shared nationally.

The Australian Government committed an additional $109.9 million ($59.9 million from the National Policing Information Systems and Services Special Account (Special Account), $50.0 million appropriation) to the ACIC over the 2024–25 and 2025–26 financial years to support the ACIC's enhanced collaboration and information sharing through the continued integration of state and territory law enforcement agencies into NCIS in the 2024 Budget.

This funding will enable the ACIC to:

- s 47E(d) [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

s 47E(d) [redacted]

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National Firearms Register

The NFR will ensure police across all Australian jurisdictions have timely and accurate information to assess firearms-related risk and protect the community. It will deliver in near real-time:

- nationwide tracing of firearms and sharing of information on firearms owners and licences
- national licence and permit verification service
- national alert and notification function for high-risk information or events, and reporting and analysis functions to understand national firearms trends
- connection between firearms-related information and key risk information, including police intelligence and criminal records.

The NFR is being implemented over four years from 1 July 2024.

National Police Reference System

The National Police Reference System (NPRS) enables police agencies across Australia to share essential policing information with other police agencies. It is specifically designed to equip operational police, investigators and analysts with the information they need to make on-the-spot decisions when dealing with persons of interest. NPRS information can be accessed from handheld devices, in-car terminals and desktop computers. The NPRS records core data such as name, identity information and photographs, information on warnings, 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. The NPRS is also a critical component of the NPCS.

Note the NPRS will be superseded by the NCIS once it has been fully implemented.

National Vehicles of Interest

The National Vehicles of Interest (NVOI) system allows police partner agencies to record and enquire on both local and interstate vehicles of interest. The NVOI also allows users to access search services provided by the National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS) hosted by Austroads. Searches can be conducted on stolen, suspect, wanted and recovered vehicles and vehicle components that make up all or part of a vehicle. The NVOI's integration with NEVDIS also allows vehicle ownership comparisons, vehicle registration / description information and national driver's license holder information to be accessible to Police Partner Agencies via the NVOI channels.

National Firearms Identification Database

The National Firearms Identification Database (NFID) is a reference tool that helps Australian police and specific Commonwealth officers, as well as firearms dealers and importers, to accurately identify and record firearms in a consistent way. The database enables police users to identify and characterise a firearm, using details such as make, model, calibre and capacity. The NFID is integrated with the Australian Firearms Information Network (AFIN) and provides an automated approach for the management of firearm template IDs. It is a critical component within the future NFR. A public version of the NFID is also available to dealers and the general public (hosted by Home Affairs) via the ACIC site www.nfid.acic.gov.au.

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Australian Firearms Information Network

The Australian Firearms Information Network (AFIN) provides the ability for police and other law enforcement agencies to view transactions of a firearm through its lifecycle, from importation or manufacture for sale in Australia through to exportation or destruction. Users of AFIN also gain access to information on firearms, licences and permits and persons and organisations. AFIN holds information from existing firearm management systems managed by Commonwealth, state and territory agencies.

AFIN data is now shared in NCIS to enhance frontline police officer safety through the provision of firearms-related information to frontline NCIS queries. AFIN will provide the central platform for the NFR.

Australian Ballistic Information Network

The Australian Ballistic Information Network (ABIN) helps police match ballistic evidence across state and territory borders. ABIN helps police across Australia electronically match crime scene ballistic evidence to the weapon used in the crime or to link crimes if the same firearm is used at multiple scenes.

CrimTrac Audit Log Integration Facility

The CrimTrac Audit Log Integration Facility (CALIF) stores all users' NPRS searches allowing jurisdictional auditors to review logged user activity where needed. The NPRS also provisions a generic graphical user interface to all jurisdictions which is audited as well.

Biometric and forensic systems

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 NAFIS to help solve crime and identify individuals by establishing a person's identity from fingerprint and palm impressions. NAFIS is also used by Home Affairs to support Australia's migration program.

s 47E(d) [redacted]

National Criminal Investigation DNA Database

The National Criminal Investigation DNA Database (NCIDD) has been in operation since 2001. More than 1.3 million DNA profiles have been uploaded to date. The NCIDD helps police solve crimes by linking DNA profiles from a crime scene with convicted offenders throughout Australia. It also allows police to match profiles from 2 or more unsolved crime scenes, linking seemingly unrelated police investigations.

s 47E(d) [redacted]

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National Missing Persons and Victim System

The National Missing Persons and Victim System (NMPVS) is used for 2 purposes:

1. by all Australian police Missing Person and Unidentified Bodies (MPUB) Units for the identification of unknown human remains and to manage long term missing persons at a national level
2. by all Australian police Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) teams for the identification of victims of major accidents and disasters.

The NMPVS is accessible to all Australian police agencies, the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, and authorised forensic specialists. New Zealand Police have access to NMPVS DVI.

The same software is used by many INTERPOL countries for DVI. It enables Australian personnel to assist in a large international disaster.

National Portable Biometric Interface

The National Portable Biometric Interface (NPBI) service is a real-time 'fast identification' biometric capability providing one-to-many fingerprint checks for partner agencies. The NPBI is a national biometric capability that enables police to use mobile scanning devices to check fingerprints on the and confirm the identification of individuals.

Through an automated interface with the NPRS it can also provide police on the street with a photograph, latest known address, information about outstanding warrants and warnings such as the likelihood of the individual being hostile or known to carry a weapon.

National Integrated Forensic Analysis

The National Criminal Investigation DNA Database – Integrated Forensic Analysis (NIFA) is a forensic software tool designed to facilitate quick human identification based on DNA.

NIFA includes functionality for familial searching (where a search is made for likely biological relatives of an unknown crime scene profile because direct matching has not identified a match) and kinship matching (where an unknown profile is compared to likely biological relatives because a sample for direct matching is not available – this is often the case in missing person and disaster victim identification scenarios).

Enhanced Biometrics at the Border

The Enhanced Biometrics at the Border (eBATB) service is a real-time high-availability biometric capability to perform, in a timely manner, one-to-many fingerprint checks against NAFIS (using mobile technology) for international travellers arriving and departing Australia at our eight international airports. The Australian Border Force (ABF) use a mobile fingerprint solution to identify 'non-citizens' of interest across Australian international airports.

Protection systems

National Child Offender System

The National Child Offender System (NCOS) consists of the Australian National Child Offender Register (ANCOR) and the Managed Person System (MPS). NCOS is a web-based application designed to assist police to register, case manage and share mandatory information about registered persons as required by

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legislation. It enables alerts to be generated when registered persons notify that they are planning to travel interstate or overseas.

Working with Children Check National Reference System

The Working with Children Check National Reference System (WWCC NRS) is a national child welfare capability that assists state and territory agencies to make better informed decisions when assessing applicants to work with children. This service is independent to NPCS and allows screening agencies in each state and territory to share key negative decisions for applicants who have applied for a Working with Children registration. The WWCC NRS only stores the negative decisions. s 47E(d) [redacted]

ACIC Court Portal and the Approved External Agencies Portal

The ACIC Court Portal previously known as the Interim Order Reference Solution provides access to State and Territory Courts and the Federal Family court to view Protection and Domestic Violence Order (DVO) information. It also provides personal information specifically in isolation of the broader persons of interest information stored within the NPRS.

The Protection Order and DVO information is provided by the courts and provisioned into the NPRS by Australian police agencies. The Courts utilise a portal to search a variety of order types and to identify orders in existence for particular persons of interest.

The Approved External Agencies Portal can also query the NPRS database to provide approved non-policing partner agencies with applicable search results.

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