

Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

STATEMENT OF INTENT – March 2026

This statement sets out my intentions as the accountable authority of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) regarding how I will meet the expectations outlined by the Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration and Citizenship, Cyber Security and the Arts under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) in the Ministerial Statement of Expectations of March 2026.

Overview

I acknowledge the ACIC's role in discharging its responsibilities through regulation of the National Police Checking Service (NPCS) and the delivery of Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Checks (NCCHCs) in partnership with its accredited bodies and police partner agencies.

Under the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002* (Cth), the ACIC's functions are to:

- 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;
- conduct investigations and intelligence operations into federally relevant crime;
- provide and maintain systems that allow information sharing for policing and law enforcement agencies; and
- provide Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Checks

I appreciate the recognition and respect of the Government for the independence of my role as Chief Executive Officer of the ACIC and my responsibility for regulation of the NPCS. The NPCS allows people to apply for a NCCHC and facilitates over 7 million checks a year. As the Accountable Authority, I will ensure the ACIC exercises its functions and powers in good faith and to the best of its ability, to support sound and timely decisions about the suitability of applicants for purposes such as employment, Australian citizenship, appointment to positions of trust and to aid various licensing and registration schemes.

The Government's policy priorities and objectives

In addition to the functions noted above, I will ensure the ACIC observes and contributes to the following Government priorities and objectives.

National Continuous Checking Capability

The ACIC is committed to protecting Australians, particularly the safety of children and vulnerable people. The ACIC will deliver the National Continuous Checking Capability (NCCC) in collaboration with states and territories. The NCCC will provide continuous, near-real time monitoring of changes to national criminal history information for relevant entitlement holders. The NCCC will reduce regulatory burden by:

- improving information sharing between state and territory regulatory agencies and police, to improve the accuracy, consistency and timeliness of decision-making regarding individuals' entitlements to work with children and/or vulnerable people across jurisdictions;
- providing employers with greater confidence when hiring people to work in certain positions or industries; and
- building an enduring capability that could support broader regulatory reforms, such as worker screening.

Regulatory reform agenda

The Government's regulatory reform agenda is a key component of its plan to support the economy by modernising regulation to improve productivity, reduce regulatory burden and overlap, and ensure regulatory systems are fit for purpose in the digital era.

I will ensure the ACIC contributes to the regulatory reform agenda by:

- seeking out opportunities to remove duplication and streamline processes in order to improve efficiency and lift productivity, including working with the Departments of Finance and Treasury on any relevant regulatory reform proposals;
- further improving the usability and accessibility of the NPCS, informed by stakeholder engagement;
- applying a risk-based, outcomes-focused approach that upholds the integrity of the NPCS while minimising unnecessary regulatory burden.

Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework

I note that under the Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework, the 6 principles for regulation are:

- 1. Targeted and risk-based:** regulators should undertake a proportionate, risk-based approach to regulatory activities, through education, administration, compliance, and enforcement mechanisms.
- 2. Integrated in existing systems:** regulation should align and work seamlessly with existing regulatory and operational systems to avoid duplication and inefficiency.
- 3. User-centred:** regulatory activities should be designed around the needs, capabilities and experiences of users to make compliance achievable and accessible.
- 4. Evidence based and data driven:** regulatory decisions should be informed by robust evidence, data and analysis to ensure effectiveness and accountability.
- 5. Reflective of the digital era:** regulators should leverage digital technologies and adapt to technological change to remain relevant and efficient.
- 6. Continuously improved and outcomes focussed:** regulation should be regularly reviewed and refined to ensure it delivers intended outcomes and keeps pace with change.

I will ensure the ACIC adheres to these principles by:

- continually reviewing the streamlined access agreement for accredited bodies to ensure it enables a consistent pathway for access to the NPCCS, enhances service delivery, reduces duplication and builds public trust;
- maintaining robust stakeholder engagement, including regular forums with accredited bodies and police agencies, and publish clear, up-to-date guidance through NPCCS newsletters and handbook (including accessibility features and plain-English content) to support compliance;
- embedding data and digital improvements to reduce processing times and re-work, improve matching accuracy, and support end-to-end transparency for applicants and accredited bodies, including exploring opportunities for greater automation and digital uplift of the NPCCS;
- reporting, at least annually, on regulatory burden reduction outcomes and on how stakeholder feedback has informed improvements.

I will ensure the ACIC acts in accordance with the Government's Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework when conducting its operations, as well as striving for continuous improvement.

Relationship with Minister and portfolio

I acknowledge the essential role the ACIC plays in ensuring that you, as the Minister responsible for the ACIC, and the Government, are well placed to ensure the safety of the Australian community by delivering timely information as requested, through the NPCCS, to support employment and entitlement decisions, and importantly to protect vulnerable Australians.

I note the Department of Home Affairs (the department) also supports and advises you by providing advice on policy development and the performance of the portfolio's regulatory systems. The department takes into account the knowledge and expertise of the ACIC when considering changes to policy and legislation that impact on community safety through the NPCCS.

Accordingly, I will ensure the ACIC continues to work collaboratively with the department to provide accurate and timely policy advice on significant issues relating to strengthening community safety through the NPCCS.

I appreciate that you, as the responsible Minister, will continue to support the ACIC by providing an authorising environment for the ACIC to effectively and efficiently uphold and deliver the NPCCS in accordance with the Government's policy direction, as specific initiatives and strategies are being considered.