



AFPA Bulletin:

PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO COMBAT SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

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Employment Life Welfare Profession

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) has welcomed the passage of legislation implementing reforms to more effectively prevent, investigate and prosecute organised crime activity, and target the proceeds of organised crime groups.

The AFPA has for a number of years lobbied for specific anti-organised crime legislation to be introduced in Parliament. The AFPA has made submissions to various inquiries including the Tom Sherman Review into POCA, produced evidence at various Parliamentary Hearings and recently presented evidence before the Criminal Justice Forum, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission, and Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Hearing into the two Bills.

AFPA National President Mr Jon Hunt-Sharman stated:

“This has been a long time coming. It is imperative that we have strong, tailored and effective laws in place to combat serious organised crime. Our members in the AFP & ACC have been working with antiquated laws that have been grossly inadequate for dealing with sophisticated organised and transnational crime syndicates”

The *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Bill 2009* and the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Bill (No. 2) 2009* implements measures proposed by the AFPA. They strengthen existing laws by:

- introducing new criminal offences targeting those involved in organised crime;
- strengthening criminal asset confiscation and anti-money laundering regimes;
- requiring individuals suspected of possessing unexplained wealth to demonstrate it was legally acquired;
- broadening access to telecommunications interception for the investigation of organised crime offences;
- providing protection for undercover law enforcement officers who infiltrate criminal organisations;
- enhancing money laundering, bribery and drug importation offences;
- enhancing search and seizure powers and the ability to access electronic data;
- extending criminal liability to individuals who jointly commit a Commonwealth offence; and
- improving the operation of the National Witness Protection Program by increasing protection for current and former participants and officers.

Mr Hunt-Sharman said:

“The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Bill 2009 and the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Bill (No. 2) 2009 provide the professional men and women of the AFP and the ACC with the tools they need to combat the increasingly sophisticated methods used by organised crime syndicates. The AFPA will continue to seek enhanced crime fighting legislation to enable our members to protect Australia from criminal attack.”