

# An abridged guide to Australian federal law-enforcement allies

Compiled by Jason Galic

## Attorney-General's Department (A-G's)

Since Federation, the Attorney-General's Department has been a leader in providing high quality public sector legal services and legal policy advice. It serves three groups of clients: the Commonwealth Ministers and the Government; Commonwealth Departments and Agencies; and the wider community and business.

## Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)

The DPP's primary role is to prosecute offences against Commonwealth law, including the Corporations Law, and to recover the proceeds of Commonwealth crime.

The DPP was created by statute and only has those functions and powers which are given to the Director by legislation. Those functions and powers are to be found in sections 6 and 9 of the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1983* and in specific legislation like the *Proceeds of Crime Act 1987*. Beginning operations in 1984, the DPP's vision is to provide a fair, effective and efficient prosecution service to the Commonwealth and the people of Australia under the direction of the DPP Act.

The DPP is within the portfolio of the Commonwealth Attorney-General, but the office effectively operates independently of the Attorney-General and of the political process.

## Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC)

AUSTRAC was established in 1988 under the *Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988* (FTR Act).

AUSTRAC's primary mission is to assist in the detection of tax evasion and major crime, including offences against Australia's corporate laws, and money laundering from drug trafficking and organised crime.

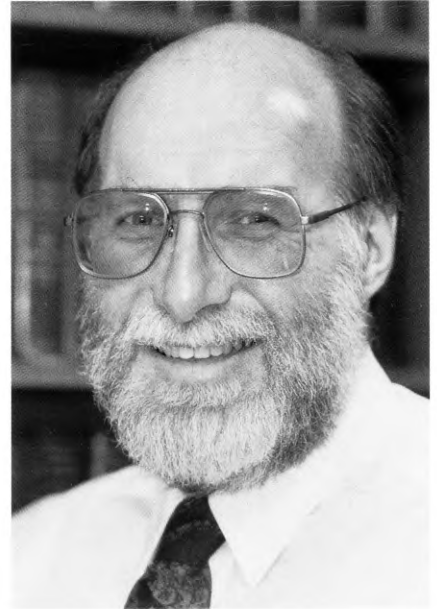
AUSTRAC's law-enforcement activities largely consist of the provision of data on financial activities to authorised law-enforcement agencies, based on the reporting obligations set out in the FTR Act. These obligations apply to 'cash dealers' and members of the public. Cash dealers are defined as including financial institutions and other corporations operating in the financial sector, and certain organisations involved in the insurance and securities industries, travel agents, cash carriers, bullion dealers and others in the gaming and betting industry.

Upon receiving the reports, AUSTRAC disseminates information to AFP, ATO, NCA, ACS, and state and territory law-enforcement agencies. AUSTRAC's data analysis and dissemination activities in regard to revenue issues are subject to priorities agreed with ATO.

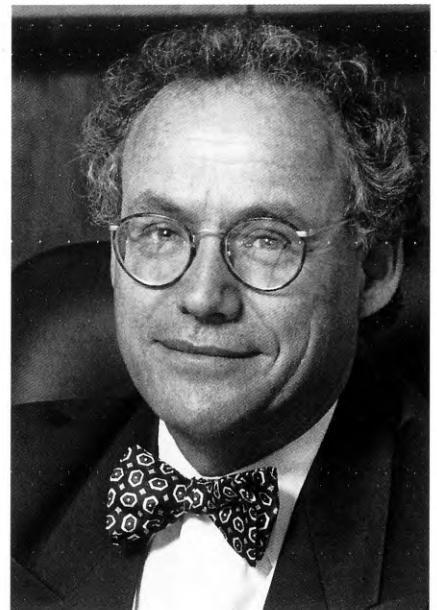
## Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)

The AIC is a national statutory authority which was established by the *Criminology Research Act 1971*. The Act provides for a board of management which annually reports to the Minister for Justice.

The AIC's mission is to conduct high quality research, provide independent expert advice and disseminate statistics and other information with a national focus, in relation to crime, crime prevention



Stephen Skehill  
Secretary  
Attorney-General's Department



Michael Rozenes, QC  
Commonwealth Director of Prosecutions



Alan Cameron  
Chairman  
Australian Securities Commission

and criminal justice in order to contribute to the development of a safer and more harmonious society. Its functions are:

- to conduct such criminological research as is approved by the Board;
- to communicate to the Commonwealth and the States the results of research conducted by the Institute;
- to conduct such seminars and courses of training or instruction for persons engaged in criminological research or in work related to the prevention or correction of criminal behaviour as are approved by the Board;
- to advise the Criminology Research Council in relation to needs for, and programs of, criminological research;
- to provide secretarial and administrative services for the Council;
- to give advice and assistance in relation to any research performed wholly or partly with funds provided from the Criminology Research Fund;
- to give advice in relation to the compilation of statistics relating to crime;
- to publish such material resulting from or connected with the performance of its functions as is approved by the Board; and
- to do anything incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the foregoing functions.

### **Commonwealth Law Enforcement Board (CLEB)**

The Commonwealth Law Enforcement Board was established on March 23, 1994 to improve Government access to information about law enforcement; and to:

- advise the Minister for Justice with information on law-enforcement agencies;
- prepare national criminal assessments for the Minister and the Government;
- provide the Government with, and review annually, a list of Commonwealth law-enforcement priorities for endorsement, based on assessments provided by the Office of Strategic Crime Assessments (OSCA);

- monitor and report to the Minister on the performance of Commonwealth law-enforcement agencies against the priorities endorsed by the Minister;
- relate priorities and functions to resources and report to the Minister on how Commonwealth law-enforcement resources have been applied to the Government's priorities;
- advise Commonwealth law-enforcement agencies on appropriate co-ordination arrangements to facilitate common police services, exchange of information and joint operations;
- authorise standards which represent best practice in the operations and technology of Commonwealth law-enforcement agencies;
- authorise standards for the prevention and deterrence of fraud on the Commonwealth for use by all Commonwealth agencies; and
- prepare an annual report to parliament.

### **Office of Strategic Crime Assessments (OSCA)**

The role of OSCA is to provide Government through CLEB with a policy-relevant, system-wide overview of significant crime trends and emerging criminal threats to Australia likely to emerge within three to five years and, in doing so, to add value to the law-enforcement policy development process.

In so doing OSCA is to:

- prepare an annual strategic assessment of the criminal environment affecting Australia, with particular emphasis on emerging threats of national significance;
- monitor (on an ongoing basis) factors impacting on the criminal environment and based on co-ordinated assessment of available information, inform CLEB of significant developments;
- establish and service an OSCA Advisory Group (OAG) to serve as a forum for agencies to have regular

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