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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our ref: 14/179251

Mr Dan Tehan MP
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Tehan

**Inquiry into Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014
Australian Crime Commission Submission**

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security with regard to its inquiry into the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014 (the Bill).

This submission is unclassified and may be published in the public domain.

Introduction to the ACC

The ACC is Australia's national criminal intelligence agency with a specialised investigative remit and capabilities. The ACC works in partnership with Commonwealth, state and territory law enforcement, national security agencies and regulatory agencies, and international law enforcement agencies, to gather intelligence and investigate serious and organised criminal activity.

The ACC maintains national criminal intelligence holdings, produces strategic and operational intelligence assessments, and coordinates national operational responses to disrupt, deter, degrade and prevent organised crime impacting on Australia.

It uses its covert and overt capabilities to support partner agencies and to provide government with an independent assessment of the risk, threat and impact of serious and organised crime on the community and national interests.

ACC's contribution to Australia's Response to Terrorism in Syria and Iraq

The threat posed by violent jihadists is pervasive and the range of counter-terrorism measures, including increased funding and legislative reform, will give agencies the resources and legislative powers needed to combat home-grown terrorism and Australians who participate in terrorist activities overseas.

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As part of whole-of-government measures to counter-terrorism, the ACC received \$24.4 million over four years to complement and support our national security and law enforcement partners. The ACC will:

- Corroborate and enhance intelligence collected by partners.
- Support national law enforcement efforts to investigate and, where appropriate, disrupt and prosecute those involved in terrorist activities.
- Address critical national security and organised crime intelligence gaps, including understanding the nexus between terrorism and organised crime.
- Complement existing and proposed efforts by partners to discover terrorist related activity and individuals.

The ACC's holistic use of its capabilities will also close significant intelligence gaps in the crossover of organised crime and terrorism. These include the:

- Extent of illicit financial flows and methodologies of transfer from organised criminal activity to terrorist organisations, individuals and other groups.
- Threat of returning foreign fighters promoting extremism, inciting violence, transference and convergence of their knowledge to Australian organised crime groups, or engaging in criminal activities to support terrorist activities.
- Possible conflation of – and extent of new – terrorist and criminal networks.

Support for legislative framework

The modern terrorism threat is highly adaptable and increasingly aware of law enforcement and intelligence tradecraft. It is therefore necessary that Australia's legislative framework sufficiently keeps pace with changes in terrorist methodologies, to allow government to discover, understand and respond to terrorism, domestically and abroad.

The response to counter-terrorism and accompanying legislative framework has been developed following wide-ranging consultation with national security and law enforcement agencies, including the ACC. The ACC strongly supports implementation of the Bill, which will provide intelligence and law enforcement some of the necessary tools to combat the modern terrorism threat.

ACC contact

On behalf of the ACC, I thank you for this opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security with regard to its inquiry into Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission further, please contact Ms Judy Lind, Executive Director Strategy and Specialist Capabilities, on _____ or via email to _____

Yours sincerely

Chris Dawson APM
Chief Executive Officer
2 October 2014