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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our Ref: 14/110424

Mr Dan Tehan MP
Chair – Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Tehan

Inquiry into the National Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security Inquiry into the *National Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014*. The ACC supports the draft Bill and notes that it is likely to increase the ability for both the national security and law enforcement communities to protect Australia, its economy, and its citizens in a rapidly evolving technological environment.

The digital revolution is posing significant challenges to the way national security and law enforcement agencies operate. The legislative environment has not kept pace with the explosion in new technologies that, while bringing substantial benefits to the community and commerce, are being effectively exploited by national security and organised crime threats.

The ACC further reiterates that a nexus exists between domestic and international organised crime groups and terrorism and violent extremism. This may involve the use of fraud and the sale of illicit commodities to fund terrorism; money laundering to legitimise illicitly acquired terrorist finances; and the acquisition and use of fraudulent identification documents to facilitate travel. Consequently, effective powers are vital to ensure that Australia's national security and law enforcement agencies maintain their ability to protect the Australian community.

The ACC considers the proposed amendments in the draft Bill are proportionate to the current threat picture and include effective mechanisms to ensure the appropriate use of powers.

Yours sincerely

Chris Dawson APM
Chief Executive Officer
6 August 2014

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