

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Question No. 115

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

- a) According to the 2010-11 Illicit drug data report, cocaine and heroin detections at the border have decreased, while at the same time the weight of seizures has increased – is this an indication that drug smugglers are becoming bolder with their shipments?
- b) Are organised criminal syndicates behind the majority of illicit drug shipments being smuggled through our borders?
- c) What does the ACC believe is the main driving factor behind the surge of violence and drug use on our streets?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

In their ongoing attempt to avoid law enforcement, organised criminals use different methodologies to try to import illicit drugs into Australia. Using importation streams that allow for large weights to be imported in a single consignment is not a new trend. Large scale importations are dominated by organised criminal syndicates.

The ACC's role is to monitor and assess the threat and risk of organised crime within Australia. We are unable to specifically comment on street level violence, which falls within the remit of state and territory law enforcement.

In a general context it is well documented that organised crime groups and gangs will resort to violence to gain territorial influence and status to further facilitate the commission of any crimes for which they can derive a profit.