

CONNECT

Throughout the year we **helped and connected partners** as we worked together to develop and share intelligence that informed national responses.

Embedding ACIC capabilities within Australian Border Force and the Department of Home Affairs resulted in the Department's Taskforce Cadena targeting the highest threat migration agents and facilitators of illegal labour hire.

DISCOVER AND UNDERSTAND

During the year we conducted **13 coercive examinations** and produced **18 products with examination material** relating to threats to the migration system.

We produced **42 intelligence products** (five analytical, 37 tactical), which were disseminated 165 times to 36 stakeholders.

In addition:

- As a result of our work under this special operation, we developed key intelligence holdings about a significant number of Malaysian visa applicants who were breaching the migration system and circumventing migration controls. This included identifying key labour hire facilitators in Malaysia and Australia who were involved in serious and organised crime activity. We also identified facilitation of migration within Malaysia, including through corrupt officials. This work enabled the Department of Home Affairs/Australian Border Force to undertake focused targeting of entities involved. **(Project Jacto)**
- The work undertaken through this special operation is now seen as a key pillar of capability within the Home Affairs Portfolio, including embedded capabilities with Taskforce Cadena to target a number of illegal labour hire syndicates. Our work to develop the understanding of the environment has led to a revised focus on illegal labour hire providers and abuses within the industry. **(Project Jacto)**
- We performed bulk data matching in support of migration fraud investigations by partner agencies—the Department of Home Affairs, Australian Federal Police and the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—informing targeting options. **(Project Jacto)**
- We consolidated intelligence holdings across numerous disparate systems, providing a risk-based understanding of the migration agents of highest threat within the cohort. This has enabled the Department of Home Affairs/Australian Border Force to undertake focused targeting of these entities. **(Project Jacto)**
- We worked with the Department of Home Affairs, and used our coercive capabilities to gain a wider understanding of education agents, including falsification of educational qualifications and visa applications, systemic fraud across the education agent sector, and student visa holders engaging in sexual services to supplement incomes. This work has provided scope to undertake future case studies and increase understanding of the education agent cohort, and possible tightening of governance and policy across the industry. **(Project Jacto)**

- Through the use of coercive examinations, we were able to provide strategic direction to the Department of Home Affairs in its investigations into applications for regional skilled migration visas. This enabled key insights into the manipulation of systems by a suspect who submitted in excess of 100 applications. This includes payment for visas, and fraudulently obtaining visas for wealthy Hong Kong nationals. **(Project Jacto)**
- Serious and organised crime entities are fraudulently obtaining genuine overseas passports to enter Australia and facilitate criminal activities. Our intelligence indicated the involvement of criminal syndicates and corrupt officials from at least two different overseas government offices. As a result, several members or associates of a syndicate were arrested in Australia, having entered the country using fraudulently obtained genuine passports. **(Project Jacto)**
- The special operation was able to develop intelligence regarding an offshore hacking group, which was harvesting Australian citizens' biographical data (bio-data) in order to compromise accounts and identities. The group obtained significant amounts of bio-data, including credit cards, bank accounts, and compromised Australian citizen details. The work included an understanding of the capabilities used by the offshore hacking groups, the ability to harvest and then sell the datasets and vulnerabilities exposed once the bio-data was obtained. **(Project Narrow-Perdita)**

RESPOND

During 2017–18 work under our Criminal Exploitation of Australia's Migration System Special Operation **contributed to prevention and disruption activities** by partner agencies, including one 'significant' disruption.

In addition, on 8 February 2018, a person of interest was removed from Australia after they were successfully prosecuted for migration-related offences. The person was convicted of five charges and received a \$5,000 fine and time served in detention. They were also referred to the Royal Malaysian Police. This related to a joint investigation with the then Department of Immigration and Border Protection in 2017. **(Project Jacto)**