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23 June 2021

Senator James Paterson

Chair

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

PO Box 6021

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Paterson

Review of the Migration and Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Information Provisions) Bill 2020.

Thank you for your invitation to provide a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (the Committee) regarding the review of the Migration and Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Information Provisions) Bill 2020 (the Bill).

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) notes the amendments to both the Migration Act 1958 and the Australian Citizenship Act 2007 are proposed to protect disclosure of confidential information provided by gazetted intelligence and law enforcement agencies where the information is used for decisions made to refuse or cancel a visa on character grounds, or revoke or set aside such decisions (Protected Information).

The ACIC's legislative framework and functions are not impacted by the proposed amendments in the Bill. In instances where the ACIC provides information to assist in the making of a decision under one of the relevant Acts, the proposed amendments would enable the ACIC to disclose sensitive information for relevant purposes with an increased level of confidence that it would be handled appropriately and not compromised. As such, the ACIC is supportive of the proposed amendments.

I extend my thanks to the Committee for its ongoing engagement and support for Australia's national security legislation.

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Should your office require further information please have them contact [REDACTED],
Chief of Staff, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Michael Phelan APM
Chief Executive Officer

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