



VICTORIA POLICE

Mike Bush CNZM
Chief Commissioner of Police

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Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement
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Dear Mr Palethorpe,

Re-referral of inquiry into the capability of law enforcement to respond to cybercrime

Thank you for your email dated 6 August 2025 inviting Victoria Police to update its submission to the Inquiry into the capability of law enforcement to respond to cybercrime (the inquiry).

We are unable to provide an updated submission, however, I invite the Committee to review the following open-source information and reports which highlight the increasing risk and presence of cybercrime in Australia. We welcome the opportunity for a representative from Victoria Police to appear before the Committee.

The Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) released its annual [Cyber Threat Report for 2023-24](#) in November 2024. It includes an assessment of the national reporting database, ReportCyber, which identified of the 84,700 reports made (equating to a report every six minutes), 27 per cent were made by Victorians. These figures, while informative, likely under-represent the actual impact of cybercrime as most victims do not report.

In our 2024 submission, Victoria Police referenced an investigation by the Victorian Joint Anti-Child Exploitation Team (JACET) into the creation of an online exploitation game. The offender created an online role-playing game which he marketed as being named Proud Father and enabled subscribers to play the role of an adult male engaging in incest and child sex abuse. The offender was sentenced on 1 April 2025 to 11 years and 9 months imprisonment and is also subject to asset seizure of approximately \$900,000. More information is available via media and court reporting.

Victoria's JACET and the related teams are experiencing considerable pressure and complexity in investigations, victim identification, production of intelligence-related materials, along with other engagements. JACET and partner agencies are targeting a trend of online exploitation through which children are exploited to commit self-harm and to participate in degrading acts. The [AFP's media release from 6 September 2024](#) on this trend includes further information. Adding to the challenges

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faced by JACET investigators is the increasing volume, depravity and extreme nature of the abuse material being shared,¹ which leads to welfare and mental health impacts on investigators.

We note the passing of the *Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (Cth) which came into effect on 10 December 2024 and includes new offences for doxxing. Legislative reforms like this are crucial to addressing rising cybercrime problems, as is continuing legislative reform to keep up with technology as it evolves. Victoria Police is continuing to advocate to the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety to progress a package of proactive legislative reforms to address this and similar types of offending.

Victoria Police would welcome the opportunity for a representative to appear before the Committee to provide clarification or expand on any aspects of our submission. The Victoria Police contact for the submission is [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Mike Bush CNZM
Chief Commissioner

9/9/25

¹ This increase was referenced by the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation in its [18 February 2025 media release](#).