



Police Federation
of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

**Crimes legislation Amendment (Unexplained Wealth and Other Measures)
Bill 2014**

The Police Federation of Australia (PFA) would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to contribute to your inquiry into the Crimes legislation Amendment (Unexplained Wealth and Other Measures) Bill 2014. We do so representing the interests of in excess of 58,000 police officers across Australia in all State and Territory jurisdictions and the Commonwealth.

The PFA and our Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) Branch have made several previous submissions to inquiries into unexplained wealth on behalf of our membership and in all instances have strongly supporting the concept. In fact it was the PFA and AFPA who first mooted the proposal for Unexplained Wealth Legislation in the Commonwealth as far back as 2008.

In respect to the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Unexplained Wealth and Other Measures) Bill 2014, the PFA and the AFPA support the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement's work in this area commend the Bill to the Parliament as adding rigour to the Commonwealth's unexplained wealth legislation and arrangements.

However, we encourage the Government not to pause here, but to continue to pursue the introduction of a truly national unexplained wealth regime which makes it effective for law enforcement agencies of the Commonwealth and all States and Territories. Such a scheme should also include a section that identifies that all moneys seized though unexplained wealth confiscations be directed to crime prevention projects as well as an agreed protocol for the distribution of seized assets across all jurisdictions. Such a process would

provide law enforcement agencies across Australia with an effective mechanism for information sharing and collaborative investigations and taskforces, such that there is no jurisdiction within which organised crime can hide. A truly national scheme will also be the solution to the constitutional issues that are consistently raised as an impediment to the Commonwealth's powers in this area.

We would be happy to appear before the Committee if required.

Sincerely yours

Mark Burgess
Chief Executive Officer