



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Parliamentary Joint
Committee on Law Enforcement report:

COVID-19, Criminal Activity and Law Enforcement

NOVEMBER 2025

Recommendations made in COVID-19, Criminal Activity and Law Enforcement

Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

The committee recommends that the Australian Government investigate whether clear chains of movement and possession can be established in the home food delivery industry to reduce its potential for exploitation by organised crime groups.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 2:

The committee recommends that the Australian Federal Police retain the Joint Intelligence Group, while any COVID-19 security risks remain, so they can continue to coordinate efforts across Australian law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and international partners.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 3:

The committee recommends that the Australian Government, in consultation with Australia's law enforcement agencies, canvass specific programs to assist Pacific nations to target and detect counterfeit pharmaceuticals, vaccines and COVID-19 related materials such as personal protective equipment.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 4:

The committee recommends the Australian Government undertake public education campaigns on the prevalence and risks of scams and fraud.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 5:

The committee recommends that the Australian Government consider whether new legislation is needed to address the rapidly evolving use of end-to-end encryption and anonymising technologies by organised crime groups, and ensure greater prospects of successful prosecution of those involved in malicious cyber activity.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 6:

The committee recommends that the Australian Government, in consultation with Commonwealth, state and territory law enforcement and police representative bodies, explore the proposal to establish a National Police Reserve Force to be utilised during national emergencies, with appropriate standards of operation and training to ensure community acceptance.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 7:

The committee recommends that Commonwealth and state and territory governments jointly undertake to review and ensure adequate provisions exist to enable offenders to be mandatorily tested if they knowingly expose a law enforcement officer to a communicable disease through the act of biting and spitting.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 8:

The committee recommends that the Australian Institute of Criminology and Australian New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency undertake an analysis of domestic and family violence, and consider the escalation of domestic violence during the pandemic, best practice training requirements for police first responders, and culturally appropriate responses to First Nations and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

