

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement

Inquiry into Financial Related Crime

Question on Notice –ACC

1. In evidence to the inquiry, Veda advocated that private sector financial service providers should be given access to the Document Verification System (DVS), ‘We ask that the committee recommend the development of a policy framework to ensure that government agencies, including law enforcement agencies, can share suspected fraud data and have confidence in the private entities they share it with.’ (see: *Committee Hansard*, 9 September 2014, p. 36). Does the ACC have any comments to make on this suggestion?

Australian Crime Commission

Answer:

Further information regarding which sectors are being given access to the service should be sought from the Attorney-General’s Department as the policy lead for implementation of the DVS. That being said, the ACC is seeking to engage more closely with industry and the private sector, particularly the finance sector. To facilitate the increased cooperation, the Australian Crime Commission Act 2002 (ACC Act) was amended in 2012 to allow the ACC to disclose criminal intelligence to a wider range of stakeholders including, for the first time, private sector entities. The ACC has begun to share intelligence product pertaining to organised crime threats and risks, as well as private-sector vulnerabilities; however, this intelligence sharing is conducted in a targeted manner, and does not involve open and direct access to ACC systems. The ACC will continue to explore ways in which to engage private industry to comprehensively combat serious and organised crime.