

Organised Crime has no doubt been affected by the lockdowns and heightened police presence in various centres where they have been dominant for so long. The public housing towers may, perhaps, be an example.

Where organised crime has been disrupted, then it begs the question. When the lockdown is over, what sort of policing structures will be left behind? What opportunities have been made by the lockdown?

Intelligence

How has police intelligence developed collection techniques gained from the information obtained from the lockdown?

Are, for example, the people in the lockdown towers paying protection to a gang inside the tower as well as their rent to the govt? Is there a gang operating vertically? Are the towers and the surrounds open drug markets? Is there a closed market operating inside the tower?

Are the nine towers connected and coordinated via a hierarchy of crime? Has that hierarchy been exposed by the lockdown? What is the darkweb cyber activity coming out of the towers?

Has the interstate movement of drugs and illicit goods been interrupted? How has police intelligence targeted these? What have they learned? How will they run collection of information after the lockdown?

Insertion of Joint Taskforces

The opportunity exists to put joint taskforces inclusive of health, state and federal police into open drug marketing places during the lockdown and for these to remain post covid 19. Each state may require a different joint taskforce compact.

The towers, for example, could have vertical beats inclusive of state and federal police as well as cultural assistance. State housing officials could be included as well. This might undercut any gang control of the towers and their precincts.

These towers have become hotspots for the spread of a virus (if media and state politicians are to be believed) that has closed down about 40 percent of the Australian economy. What else is happening there to the residents, the state and the nation? Should they be demolished? The UK has done. It might be time for a national housing policy with nationally established standards and protections from harm from any source. What are the national standards for policing vulnerable communities? How do you define vulnerability in a diverse national environment? What differentials are required in law enforcement in training, recruitment, resources, and deployment to address those vulnerabilities. What knowledge has been gained nationally from the Covid 19 experience?

Considerable synergies have been established across state and federal sectors, how are they going to be continued in the postcovid 19 environment?

An Assistant Minister in the Prime Minister's Office could be appointed to support federal, state, and private sectors coordination to respond to national priorities in the suppression of crime, economic, environmental and health emergencies.

A closed hearing in a "federal cabinet" model of representative state and federal politicians could take evidence from selected groups involved in the suppression of crime to establish what criminal activity was affected and how the architecture of law enforcement should be adjusted to incorporate the knowledge gained in respect of the issues raised. Federal assistance should be provided to the states to implement any adjustments.

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