

25 October 2016

To: The Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry regarding the Australian Crime Commission Amendment (Criminology Research) Bill 2016 [Provisions]

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Since its inception, the Australian Institute of Criminology has been an essential source for reliable and accurate statistics on the very large and complex problem of crime in Australia.

The Institute has also generated a long list of practical, evidence-based, reports on ways of reducing crime and improving justice.

Underpinning its products is a strong reputation for integrity and rigour. The diverse product range is used by numerous stakeholders in government, academia and the private sector engaged in practice, research and policy development. The Institute's products are also widely used to provide relevant and current teaching materials for professional development and training in universities, colleges and academies.

It is difficult to see how amalgamation of the Institute with another organisation would generate any public benefits.

Independence has been central to the achievements and reputation of the Institute. In order to further progress solutions to diverse crime and justice problems in Australia, it is essential that the Institute retain its autonomy and that its research agenda is not subsumed by the priorities of another organisation. In regard to this, it is also extremely important that the Director is a fully qualified criminologist and established scholar in the field.

Yours sincerely,

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