

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
Examination of the Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2024-25
Australian Federal Police
QoN 6 - Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce

Senator Helen Polley asked the following question on 5 February 2026: Please provide further details on the work of the Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce.

The response to the question is as follows:

Led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce (CACT) is the main Commonwealth authority responsible for investigating and litigating asset confiscation matters. The CACT was established permanently on 1 January 2012 to coincide with amendments to the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* (Cth) (POCA), and combines the expertise of the AFP, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), Australian Taxation Office (ATO), Australian Transaction and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC), and Australian Border Force (ABF) to undermine the profitability of criminal enterprises by targeting, restraining and ultimately confiscating criminal assets.

The CACT's model of Australia-wide, co-located teams of police, litigation lawyers, financial investigators, forensic accountants, cryptocurrency experts and partner agency specialists, is a world-leading model of criminal asset confiscation.

The CACT primarily operates under the POCA in the exercise of powers, that seek to deprive criminal offenders of the proceeds, instruments and benefits of their illicit activity, deter persons from breaching Commonwealth law, prevent the reinvestment of the proceeds of crime into further criminal activity, undermine the profitability of criminal enterprise, and to give effect to Australia's international obligations on asset confiscation.

Once confiscated assets are forfeited to the Commonwealth, they are realised (liquidated) by the Official Trustee, the Australian Financial Security Authority, and the funds derived from the sale of these assets placed into the Confiscated Assets Account (CAA), managed by the Official Trustee on behalf of the Commonwealth.

The CAA funds can be distributed to benefit the community through crime prevention measures, diversion programs or other law enforcement initiatives.
