

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 3

Program: Other Agency

Question No. BE15/007

Senator Lambie asked the following question at the hearing on 27 and 28 May 2015:

Senator LAMBIE: We will check up on that then. Moving on to something else: how much organised crime is in Tasmania? Can you please detail the number of organised crime gangs in Tasmania. How much property has been bought by organised crime gangs? Do you believe there should be a national law which deals with organised crime gangs, like the RICO laws they have in America? Please detail the links that organised crime gangs have with terrorist organisations.

Mr Dawson: In terms of known organised crime gangs, they are best represented in Tasmania—I should not say 'best', but they are represented in Tasmania—through a number of outlaw motorcycle groups. As to the exact number, I will ask my colleague if he has that number, but my recall—and I can take that question on notice—is that it is in the order of about six different outlaw motorcycle groups. I would be surprised if there were more than six, but certainly there are a number, including the Rebels. I am not certain about the Bandidos, but certainly some of the larger groups are represented in Tasmania. It is also fair to say that some of the crime syndicates in Tasmania are not necessarily those that are badged up as outlaw motorcycle groups. Each of the states and territories, including Tasmania, supply the Crime Commission with their national criminal targets, which are subject to the risk assessment. We rate them from extreme high downwards. We then apply that matrix—

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) maintains the National Criminal Target List (NCTL), being a threat assessed list of the highest risk criminal targets impacting Australia. The number of targets within jurisdictions is sensitive/classified as they involve ongoing operations and partner intelligence. The Australian Gangs Intelligence Centre records the presence of six Outlaw Motor Cycle Groups (OMCGs) in Tasmania. The ACC does not record information on property purchased by organised crime gangs.

While the Commonwealth does not have a single Act that is directly comparable to the United States *Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act* (RICO), the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Criminal Code) and the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* (POCA) do provide Commonwealth law enforcement agencies with sufficient scope to address serious and organised crime.

Internationally, there have been links between terrorist organisations and serious and organised crime groups, which may have included relationships of convenience and some more active partnerships. Some terrorist organisations have been actively involved in serious and organised criminal activity for the purposes of fundraising. Given the nature of international criminal markets, this would have required links to serious and organised crime groups to obtain access to illicit products and/or distribution networks. In other areas, some serious and organised crime groups may have provided direct support to terrorist organisations by facilitating access to

weapons or money laundering services. Some members of serious and organised crime groups have even fought with or alongside terrorist organisations.

Within Australia, the ACC is working with our national security and law enforcement partners to identify and determine the nature and extent of these types of links between Australia-based extremists and serious and organised crime groups. Due to operational sensitivities, the ACC is unable to provide any further details on its work or findings in this area.