

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Question No. 86

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

In relation to intelligence:

1. Does the ACC have its own intelligence generating system or does it get the majority of its intelligence from State/Territory Police Force holdings?

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

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) generates intelligence through a number of mechanisms some of which are technical system based and could be classified as 'intelligence generating systems' while others are activity based.

For example, the ACC-led National Criminal Intelligence Fusion Capability could be classified as an 'intelligence generating system'. It provides technical analytical tools combined with a diverse and ongoing feed of bulk data and targeted new information, as well as secondees from participating agencies (currently 19 partners) and agreements to share data. This enables the ACC to compile and analyse large volumes of information and intelligence from multiple sources, which generates new insights (via monitoring and discovery activity) into serious and organised crime.

Palantir is a core analytical tool provided by Fusion for ACC analysts to analyse information and generate intelligence. Fusion also provides the ACC a gateway to interface with international partner networks and forums. It should be remembered however that ultimately a human element is always required to evaluate, assess and make judgements and recommendations in relation to the information and intelligence.

The ACC also generates intelligence through:

- coercive powers
- cyber intelligence capabilities
- covert human source capabilities
- research and analysis capabilities (open source and specialised information sources)
- traditional investigations, surveillance and telephone interception activities
- joint taskforces, joint operations and joint forums.

ACC intelligence is therefore both generated internally and through joint activities with state and territory police and Commonwealth law enforcement partners.

The ACC also hosts the Australian Law Enforcement Intelligence Network (ALEIN) and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Database (ACID). ALEIN is the secure extranet that provides a gateway for our partners to access the:

- ACID
- National Clandestine Laboratory Database
- Violent and Sexual crime Database

- ALEIN information desks.

ALEIN is also a secure messaging channel for sharing criminal information and intelligence between Commonwealth, state and territory law enforcement agencies.

ACID is Australia's national criminal intelligence and information system that provides 2744 users across 25 Commonwealth, state and territory law enforcement agencies and other regulatory authorities with the ability to securely share, collate and analyse criminal information and intelligence nationally.