



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
**PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE
ON LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Mr Chris Hayes MP
Committee Chair

***** MEDIA ALERT *****

Mr Hayes will table the Committee's report on its *Inquiry into Commonwealth Unexplained Wealth Legislation and Arrangements* in the House of Representatives at 10:40 am on Monday 19 March and will be available to speak to the media as follows:

LOCATION: Committee Room 2S2

TIME: 12:00 noon - Media please assemble at 11:45 am

CONTACT: **(02) 6277 4682**

Serious and organised crime, motivated by greed, power and money, has serious impacts, threatening the economy, national security and the wellbeing and liberty of Australians. The financial cost to the community is conservatively estimated to be around \$15 billion a year.

Unexplained wealth legislation represents a new form of law enforcement. Where traditional policing has focussed on securing prosecutions, unexplained wealth laws contribute to a growing body of measures aimed at prevention and disruption.

Unexplained wealth laws can be used to target serious and organised crime bosses who arrange their affairs so that they can enjoy the proceeds of crime, without committing the actual crimes themselves.

Unfortunately however, the existing Commonwealth unexplained wealth laws have not worked as intended by the committee, or in the legislation as introduced to the Parliament a couple of years ago.

Committee Chair, Mr Chris Hayes MP, said: *"In this report, the committee makes recommendations that will significantly enhance the effectiveness of the Commonwealth unexplained wealth provisions, to ensure that crime doesn't pay."*

Further Information on the Inquiry:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=le_ctte/unexplained_wealth/index.htm