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19 July 2005

Mr O Walsh
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Walsh

**INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF THE
MIGRATION ACT 1958**

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee's inquiry into the administration and operation of the *Migration Act 1958*.

After reviewing the documentation, it is considered that the terms of reference of the inquiry are appropriate. However, the Department of Police and Public Safety considers that the practical operation of the Act could be enhanced if an additional term of reference was included in the inquiry.

Specifically, it is recommended that the Committee consider examining the adequacy of information sharing, existing processes and co-operation between relevant State and Commonwealth agencies in relation to the identification and detention of persons, including missing persons. This could extend to examining the feasibility of establishing a national missing persons register.

In relation to paragraph (b) of the proposed terms of reference, it is recommended that the examination of the activities and involvement of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other government agencies, extend to detention as well as deportation.

If you wish to discuss the matter further please contact Inspector Paul Gray by telephoning (03) 6230 2418.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. McCREADIE', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R McCREADIE
Commissioner of Police