CRIMTRAC

Responsive • Innovative • Accountable

To: Mr Jon Bell
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity
By Email: aclei.committee@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Bell

Submission to the parliamentary inquiry into the integrity of overseas Commonwealth law enforcement operations

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 January 2012, inviting CrimTrac to make a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into the integrity of overseas Commonwealth law enforcement operations.

Attached is the submission of the CrimTrac agency.

I authorise publication of this submission on the committee's website after the committee has examined, accepted and authorised its publication.

If you would like further information on this submission please contact me via the details below.

Yours sincerely

Doug Smith
Chief Executive Officer, CrimTrac
GPO Box 1573
CANBERRA ACT 2601

27 February 2012

-Inquiry into the integrity of overseas Commonwealth law enforcement operations-

Background

This submission has been prepared according to the following terms of reference:

Pursuant to the committee's duties set out in subsection 215(1)(d) of the Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006 the committee will inquire into the management of corruption risks arising from the international operations of Commonwealth law enforcement agencies, including:

- *the Australian Federal Police;*
- *the Australian Crime Commission;*
- *the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service;*
- *the Australian Taxation Office;*
- *the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre;*
- *CrimTrac;*
- *the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service; and*
- *the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.*

In the context of challenges particular to international operations, the committee will consider:

a) *trends in and the nature and extent of corruption risks facing Commonwealth law enforcement agencies involved in international operations;*
b) *the extent to which Commonwealth law enforcement agencies are able to prevent and investigate corruption in their international operations;*
c) *the extent to which ACLEI is able to assist in corruption prevention and to successfully investigate or otherwise respond to corruption in international operations;*
d) *the nature and effectiveness of integrity measures, models and legislation adopted by foreign jurisdictions, including for their international operations;*
e) *the interaction of Commonwealth and foreign integrity measures, including in cases of joint operations with foreign governments or multinational organisations; and*
f) *any other relevant matters.*

CrimTrac Submission

CrimTrac provides access to information that supports law enforcement agencies through collaborative national information systems and services. Examples of these systems include:
- The National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS);
- The National Criminal Investigation DNA Database (NCIDD); and
- The National Police Reference System (NPRS).

The objective of CrimTrac is to enhance Australian policing and law enforcement, through the delivery of high quality information services that meet the needs of the law enforcement community. CrimTrac hosts a number of law enforcement data systems (e.g. NAFIS, NCIDD and NPRS) that provide storage and matching capabilities, however, CrimTrac does not perform an active role in direct law enforcement either in Australia or internationally. International law enforcement operations are usually carried out by Police Agency Partners of CrimTrac (e.g. the Australian Federal Police) or the international law enforcement agencies that they liaise with. In this way CrimTrac performs a facilitative role in overseas Commonwealth law enforcement operations without having a direct operational role in these activities.

Following are several examples of how this role has been undertaken by CrimTrac previously and currently.

Comparison of fingerprints provided by international law enforcement agencies
Through the NAFIS, CrimTrac facilitates searching and matching of fingerprints received from international law enforcement agencies directly or via Interpol. Whilst CrimTrac facilitates searching and matching of fingerprints through the NAFIS, CrimTrac staff do not have operational access to the system.

Comparison of DNA profiles provided by international law enforcement agencies
Through the NCIDD, CrimTrac facilitates searching and matching of DNA profiles received from international law enforcement agencies directly or via Interpol. As with the NAFIS, whilst CrimTrac facilitates searching and matching of DNA profiles through the NCIDD, CrimTrac staff do not have operational access to the system.

The use of CrimTrac storing and matching capabilities in the immigration context
CrimTrac hosts fingerprints collected by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) on the NAFIS and also facilitates matching of immigration fingerprints received by DIAC from immigration departments in the USA, Canada, New Zealand and the UK.

Future extension of the National Policing Checking System to New Zealand
CrimTrac is currently exploring options for the international exchange of policing information with New Zealand. However, the scope of this work is currently limited to the checking of police history held in both Australia and New Zealand for the purposes of probity and pre-employment screening. As with the examples provided above, the involvement of CrimTrac in these activities is related to the provision of access to information services that include law enforcement data systems rather than actual law enforcement operations.

Summary
While CrimTrac provides critical storage, searching, matching and sharing capabilities to support overseas Commonwealth law enforcement operations, CrimTrac does not have a direct operational role in these operations.