



AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION MEDIA RELEASE



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Collaboration is the key to fighting organised crime

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) has released a new public awareness and crime prevention publication designed to enable the Australian public and business community to better understand the extent and impact of organised crime in Australia.

With organised crime estimated to cost the country in excess of \$10 billion each year, the ACC has released a public version of *Organised Crime in Australia*, a 15 page report examining the emerging issues and trends relating to organised crime, how it affects the Australian community and the collective efforts being made by law enforcement agencies in disrupting and dismantling these criminal entities.

ACC Chief Executive Officer Alastair Milroy said that many in the public and business community are unaware of the level of organised crime in their industry and community.

“Organised crime pervades all parts of society and the concerning part is that many in business and the community in general do not realise how vulnerable they are to it,” Mr Milroy said.

“As a community, we must be aware of organised crime. The *Organised Crime in Australia* publication is designed to raise awareness of organised crime, so we can all work together to disrupt it.

“By sharing this information and knowledge with the community, business entities and other affected groups, we create an opportunity for them to examine whether they are vulnerable to infiltration and attack by organised crime, and if found to be at risk, implement controls to combat organised crime.

“The publication also creates the opportunity for feedback from interested groups and the provision of more information and intelligence on organised crime,” Mr Milroy said.

The *Organised Crime in Australia* report reveals a number of emerging trends such as the expansion of organised crime into new industries, the growing influence of transnational organised crime, the overlap between criminality and terrorism, and an increase in identity crime.

“Organised crime is diverse and flexible, and encompasses a broad range of industries and activities including drug trafficking, corruption, violence, fraud, money laundering, high tech/cyber crime and other financial sector crimes,” Mr Milroy said.

Awareness and understanding of the threats of organised criminal activity continue to be a vital component in the fight against organised crime in Australia.

“Australia’s law enforcement agencies, supported by governments, are examining the impact of crime across a range of crime types however working in close partnership with industry specialists and the community is crucial in the prevention and reduction of criminal activity,” Mr Milroy said.

“The more information and knowledge we have and share, the greater the opportunity we have to reduce the impact of organised crime in Australia.

“I urge the public and business community to be more aware, better informed, and to take an active role in reporting information or criminal intelligence on organised crime to either the ACC or your local policing service,” he concluded.

Organised Crime in Australia is an abbreviated, unclassified version of the ACC’s *Picture of Criminality in Australia* (PoCA) report. The PoCA is a classified, critical decision-making tool for Australian law enforcement and government by exploring crime types and a number of critical issues in greater detail.

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