



THE HON PETER DUTTON MP MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS

This Ministerial Direction is issued under subsection 37(2) of the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979* (the AFP Act). It supersedes and revokes the previous Direction issued on 12 May 2014, and complements the Direction issued on 8 August 2019 relating to investigative action involving unauthorised disclosures to media organisations.

The Government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of Australians and Australia's interests. The AFP plays a key role in protecting the community as well as Australia's interests. My expectation is that the AFP delivers all functions under section 8 of the AFP Act, and will focus its activities to maximise its impact upon the criminal environment.

In the current environment, the expected focus areas for the AFP are:

COUNTERING TERRORISM, ESPIONAGE AND FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

- Prevent and disrupt violent extremist threats within Australia including the risks posed by foreign fighters, the release of High Risk Terrorist Offenders and residual risk of domestic radicalised persons.
- Provide critical specialist support and investigate harmful espionage and foreign interference affecting Australia's national interests.

COMBATting CHILD EXPLOITATION

- Identify, disrupt, pursue and prosecute child sex offenders, preventing the exploitation of children and removing victims from harm.
- Drive a collaborative, national response to counter the online exploitation of children through the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE).

TRANSNATIONAL SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

- Prevent, deter, disrupt and investigate organised criminal activities affecting Australia, including illicit drug importation, firearms offences and money laundering.
- Disrupt the economic incentives of organised criminal groups, restraining criminal assets and removing the profits of crime.
- Contribute to Australia's international law enforcement interests through cooperating with international partners to combat crime and corruption, responding to international emergencies, and building law and order capacity.

CYBER CRIME

- Deter malicious actors from targeting the Australian cyber environment across government, industry, and the community, including systems of national significance.
- Reducing the impact and harm to everyday Australians from cybercrime.
- Prevent and investigate technology-enabled crime, disrupting criminal groups exploiting anonymising technologies and clandestine networks to harm Australians and Australian interests.

FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

- Protect Commonwealth revenue, by deterring, disrupting and investigating serious or complex fraud and corruption against the Commonwealth, especially criminal exploitation of the Government's COVID-19 response.
- Work with partner agencies to strengthen the Commonwealth's resilience to fraud and corruption.

PROVISION OF SPECIALIST PROTECTION SERVICES AND OPERATIONS

- Ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of Australian High Office Holders in support of their official duties within Australia and offshore.
- Safeguard the security and dignity of identified foreign dignitaries whilst on Australian soil.
- Ensure the security of Commonwealth assets and critical infrastructure in support of Australia's national security and economic interests.
- Prevent, disrupt and respond to security and criminal threats at Australia's designated airports, ensuring integrity of Australia's borders and facilitating safe travel of Australian's and foreign visitors.
- Ensure the safety of AFP members, capabilities and policing infrastructure.
- Work with the communities of the ACT, Jervis Bay, Norfolk Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Islands to address victim-based crime, threats to community safety and serious and organised crime.
- Provide expertise, training, development and support to neighbouring law enforcement partners to enhance the security of the region and protect Australia's national interests.

In delivering against these priorities, I have high expectations that the AFP operates in a collaborative, accountable and responsive manner. In this regard, I expect the AFP to:

- Utilise all available strategies to combat criminal activity
 - o Mobilise the AFP's international footprint in the pursuit of maximum impact on this Government's areas of focus.

- Capitalise on all opportunities to remove profits from crime, targeting criminals' financial benefits and removing the incentives for criminality.
- Consider all avenues available to target criminals, including coercive ACIC powers and innovative disruption methodologies employed by partner agencies.
- Work collaboratively to achieve its goals
 - Strong engagement within the Home Affairs Portfolio, ensuring a connected approach with the Department and Portfolio Agencies.
 - Close collaboration with state and territory policing partners, providing support and access to Commonwealth resources, intelligence and capabilities.
 - Ongoing liaison with domestic and international partners to execute law enforcement and crime prevention strategies to protect Australia and its global region.
- Create an efficient, effective workforce
 - Continue the efforts to embed a regional command structure, ensuring the AFP is best placed to respond to criminal threats and strengthen its local partnerships.
 - Continue to grow a high-performing, innovative and values-driven policing agency that prioritises the development of its people, and their health and wellbeing in the pursuit of operational outcomes.
- Demonstrate best corporate practice
 - Ensure strong corporate governance and information management, and comply with relevant legislative requirements such as the PGPA Act.
 - Provide advice to Government concerning emerging risks and criminal threats.
 - Raise issues affecting the AFP's performance and capacity to achieve priorities in a timely and comprehensive manner.



Peter Dutton
Minister for Home Affairs

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