



4 May 2010

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND POLICE INTEGRITY LEADERSHIP FORUM COMMUNIQUE

On Thursday and Friday last week, the inaugural meeting occurred in Melbourne of the Australian and New Zealand Police Integrity Leadership Forum. Senior representatives of eight Australian and New Zealand agencies with police oversight responsibilities attended, including the new Chairperson of the Queensland Crime & Misconduct Commission, The Hon. Martin Moynihan AO QC, the Chair of the Independent Police Conduct Authority of New Zealand, Justice Lowell Goddard, New South Wales Police Integrity Commissioner John Pritchard, Commissioner of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity Philip Moss, Victorian Office of Police Integrity Director, Michael Strong, South Australian Police Complaints Authority head Sarah Bolt, Corruption & Crime Commission of Western Australia Executive Director, Mike Silverstone and New South Wales Deputy Ombudsman, Greg Andrews.

The Northern Territory Ombudsman was an apology and the Commonwealth Ombudsman will be invited to join the group at the next meeting.

The fact that there are nine statutory bodies in Australia with police oversight responsibilities (and another in prospect in Tasmania) is reason enough for regular contact to occur at senior management levels. Police oversight is very much a developing discipline. Exchange of information and the establishment of cooperative relationships are essential if agencies are to maximize learning opportunities.

Lines of communication have already been established between some agencies at operational levels and specialist levels.

The leadership meeting took the form of an open forum at which views were exchanged on many issues of mutual interest. The following topics were flagged for ongoing consideration and for discussion at the next meeting (lead agency in parentheses, where designated)

- Measuring agency performance and effectiveness(OPI)
- Maintaining public and stakeholder support (CMC)
- Working cooperatively (CCC)
- Over the horizon: the policing and oversight environment 5 and 10 years hence

OPI's National Integrity Index and Sister Agency Information Exchange (SAKE) projects were outlined and were well received. The National Integrity Index will be fine tuned after receipt of agency feedback. It will permit national benchmarks to be set for integrity performance in police services. SAKE will facilitate regular electronic exchange of professional development and technical information between agencies.

The Forum was adjudged a success and it was resolved to endeavour to convene such meetings biannually, the next meeting to be held in Auckland in or about November 2010. It was also resolved to invite the New South Wales ICAC as an observer.