



Domestic Airline Passengers Flying in False Names: Disorganising organised crime

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Important things to remember...

- Personal research
- WAPOL data not WAPOL view
- Academic and theoretical view of real issue
- Findings versus solutions



Wheeler Inquiry 2005 Drivers



2001



2004



2005



2010

Wheeler Report Improved...

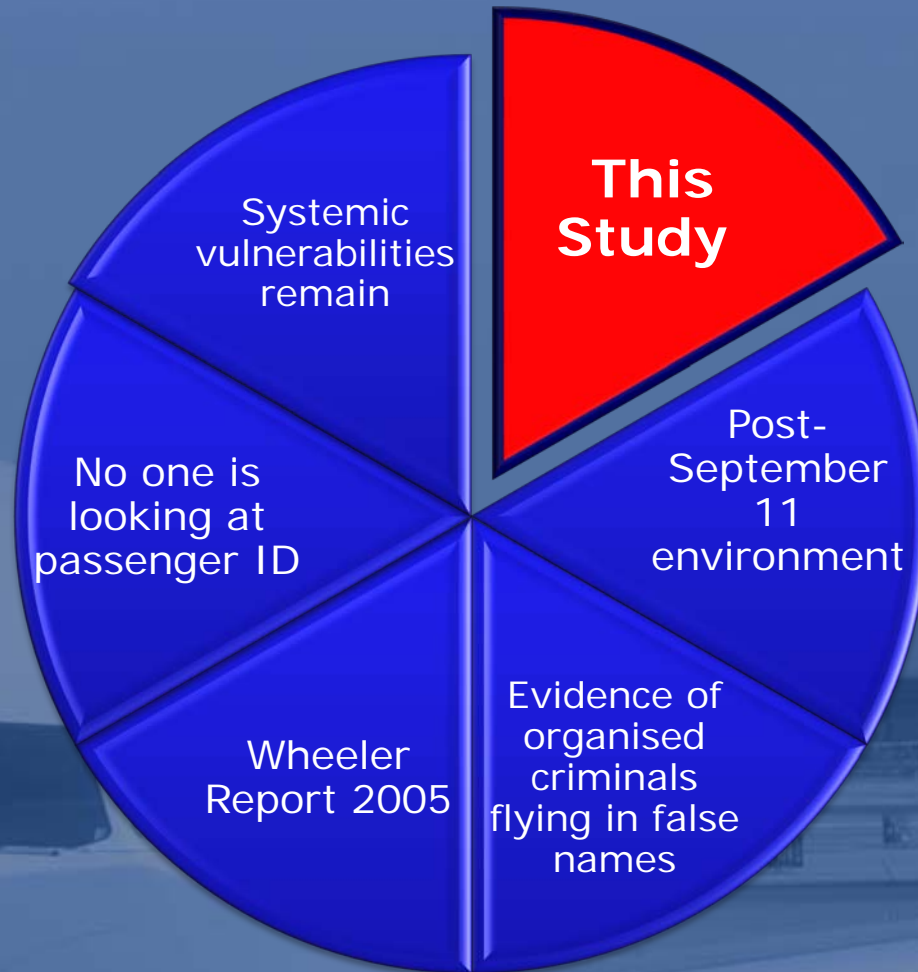
Physical security, personnel checking and jurisdictional arrangements



APPLY FOR AN ASIC ONLINE

Using Aviation ID's next generation electronic application

Background to the Study



Investigative Barrier to...



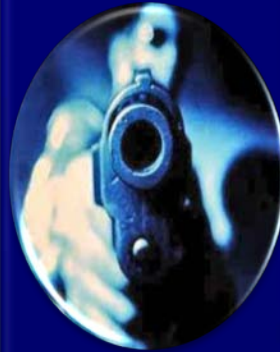
Serious and Organised Crime



Gang Crime



Major Fraud



Major Crime



Missing Persons



Disaster Victim Identification

Anonymous airline travel is a significant barrier to police investigations

Objectives of the Study

1. Explore the use of false travel identity by domestic airline passengers
2. Look for enabling systemic processes
3. Determine if current processes were consistent with Situational Crime Prevention Theory
4. Document the undocumented (tacit knowledge)



Airports are Teeming with Potential

- Exports and imports > \$100 billion pa
- 50.2 million domestic passengers 08/09 (Dept Transport)
- Employment for 150,000 people

“Such flows of wealth and people through concentrated nodes provide rich opportunities for both crime and terrorism.” (Wheeler 2006)



Study Details

- Action Research approach
- Collaboration between researcher and practitioners (Problem-solving approach to a real issue - experts)
- Case study reviews
- Hermeneutic analysis of data
- Situational Crime Prevention theory – (opportunity)

Data Collection 2006 and 2010



Western Australia Police

- Organised Crime Squad
- Major Fraud Squad
- Gang Crime Squad

2006

Cases hard to source

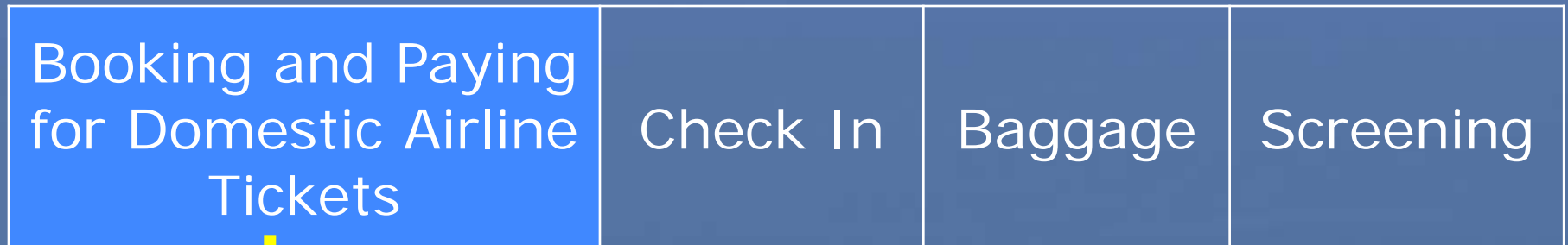
2010

Cases easy to source

Research Subjects 2006

- 4 separate cases
- Involving 13 offenders known to have used false travel names in the planning, commission of their crimes or escaping after the fact

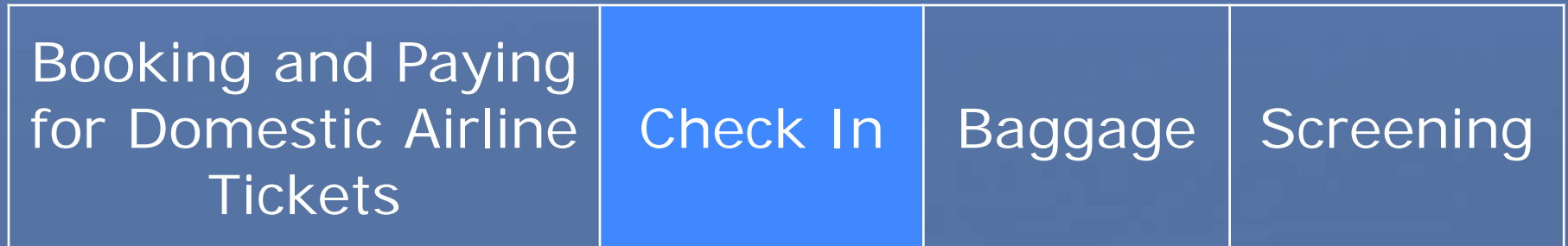
How it Works...(do not try this at home)



- **Travel agent**
- **Internet**
- **Airline (phone/airport desk)**
- **Another party**

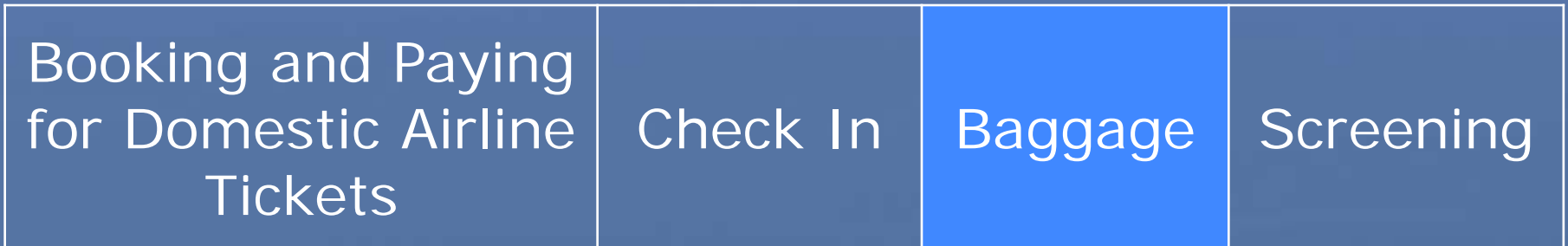
Cash, cheque, credit card or Frequent Flyer points
ID is rarely required

Checking In



- Check in and print boarding pass on own computer or phone
 - Check in and print boarding pass at airport via Self-Serve Web Kiosk
 - Check in at the counter (the old fashioned way)
- NO ID usually required

Checked Baggage



- Take it to airline staff for checking
- Give to another passenger to check
- Next Generation Bag Drop
- No baggage

Screening

Booking and Paying for Domestic Airline Tickets	Check In	Baggage	Screening
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- Security staff and CCTV network
- Airport staff screened and display ASIC Card
- Metal Detection and Bomb Residue Screening
- Canine Patrols (food, bombs, drugs, currency)
- NO ONE SCREENS FOR PASSENGER IDENTITY
- Domestic airports NOT sterile boarding environment

Case Example

- 28 year old Perth mechanic and associates [btw Perth-Melbourne 2/52]
- Evidence of extensive links to WA and Victorian **organised crime groups**
- **Known Methamphetamine dealer**
- Booked airline tickets in false names for himself and others
- Recorded names to avoid suspicion

Case Example (Cont'd)

- Booked tickets via internet, telephone and at airline counters
- Used friends' credit cards, paid back with cash
- Arrested at Perth airport with associate **(seized >\$140,000 cash and significant quantity of Methamphetamine)**

Case Example (Cont'd)

- Qty store credit cards and birth certificates
- Previous serious drug charges (Meth)
- Lack of robust Situational Crime Prevention strategies (ID processes) facilitated regular drug trafficking
- Did not reduce opportunity

Findings of the Study

10 Factors emerged:

- Identified by senior WAPOL detectives (tacit)
- Linked to the use of false identities by domestic airline passengers
- Barriers to investigations

Confirmed by:

- Case studies
- Senior operational police officers
- 3 independent aviation security professionals

Findings of the Study

Criminals linked to Serious and Organised Crime use false identities to avoid detection

Accuracy of Flight Manifests?

Privacy Act 1988 (Cwth) restricts information sharing without a warrant (no real time)

No legislation, no requirement

Most Important Factor

Lack of Legislation Requiring Passengers to Authenticate Identity or Forfeit the Right to Fly

Domestic Passenger Identity Legislation:

- Disrupt anonymous travel
- Disrupt OC and other criminal activity
- Consistent with SCP theory (opportunity)
- Assist Police investigations

NOTE: Standard international practice

2010 Data



4 cases reviewed, 9 offenders



15 aliases used for travel
150 false identities ready for use



Importing and exporting commercial
quantity controlled drugs



Using false names, documents,
credit cards

Range of Charges

Conspiring to traffic commercial quantity of controlled drugs

> 500 fraud charges

Possession and production of false travel documents

Importing commercial quantities of border-controlled drugs

Possession of stolen property

Dealing in proceeds of crime

Possession of counterfeit money

Various Case Details

- One case potential proceeds > \$40m
- Domestic flights Perth-Syd-Melb, using false names
- Some operated in other states or countries or their OC group did
- 44kg of MDMA (Ecstasy)
- Street value: \$14 million to \$24 million
- Sentences ranging up to 25 years

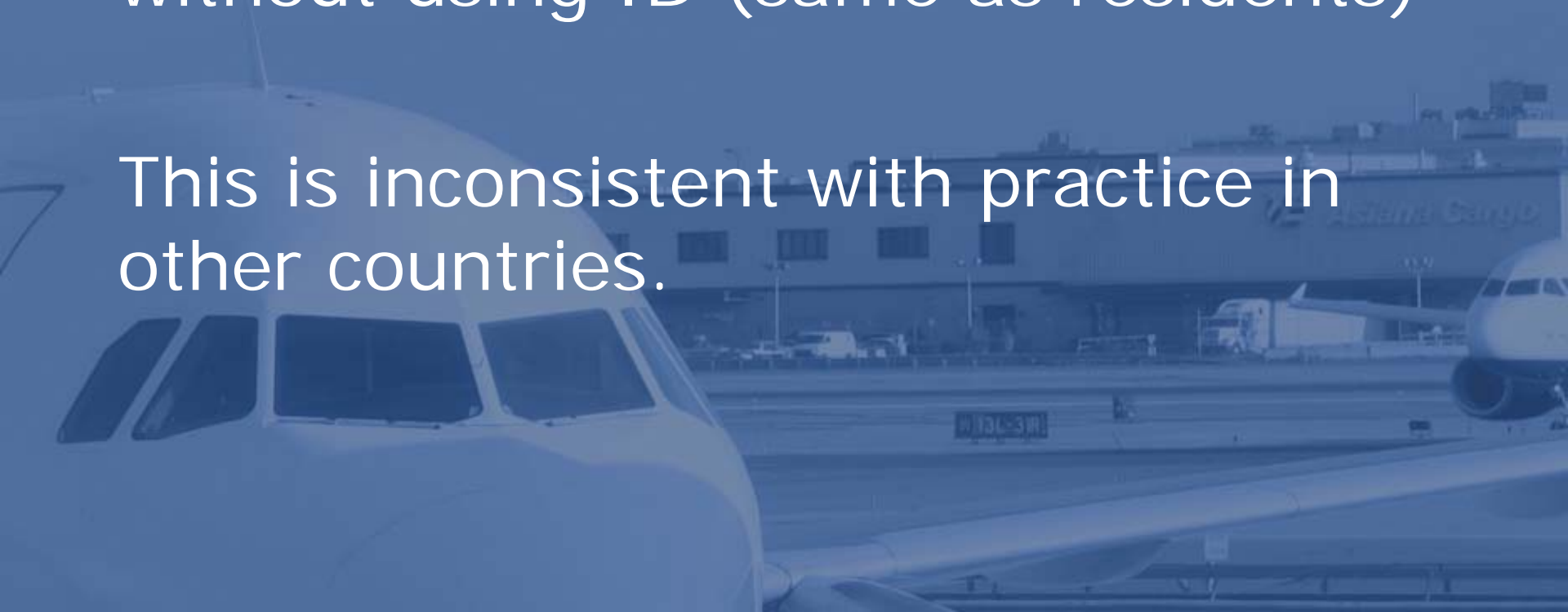
Organised Crime

- 19 out of 22 offenders had proven connections to organised crime groups (courier to high level)
- Organised Crime reported to cost the Australian community \$10 billion annually
- Could Situational Crime Prevention strategies be applied to reduce opportunity?

International Passengers

Once arriving in Australia, international passengers can fly on domestic flights without using ID (same as residents)

This is inconsistent with practice in other countries.



Closing Thoughts...

9/11 terrorists were 19 domestic passengers (some recent USA arrivals)

Al Qaida operatives - 4 domestic flights (> 350)

Took advantage of "permeable domestic aviation security"

Similar systemic flaws remain in the Australian domestic airflow

Highlights the seriousness of the relationship between false identities and organised criminal activities

A blue-tinted photograph of an airport tarmac. In the foreground, the nose and cockpit windows of a white airplane are visible. In the background, there is a large hangar with the 'Asiana Cargo' logo and name. Another airplane is partially visible on the right side of the frame. The text 'Time for Questions' is centered in white over the image.

Time for Questions