MINISTER RELEASES 2013 AUSTRALIAN CRIME FACTS AND FIGURES

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) Australian Crime: Facts & figures 2013 is an annual publication compiled from information provided by each state and territory, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and AIC reports, and provides statistics on recorded crime, criminal courts and corrections and offender profiles.

The 2013 statistics show while the volume and rate of individual crime has fluctuated over the past few years, overall, crime in Australia has been decreasing.

Key data shows amphetamine arrests in 2012 increased 30 per cent on the year before, that 25 per cent of all murder victims were killed by an offender armed with a firearm, and that there was an increase in online and communications fraud.

Since coming to Government the Coalition has introduced a range of measures to detect and disrupt organised criminal syndicates, specifically targeting illicit drugs, firearms and fraud.

This Government is serious about working co-operatively with federal, state and territory law enforcement agencies to undermine the business models of sophisticated and deadly organised criminal syndicates.

Organised crime groups are profit driven, constantly looking for new opportunities and operating across domestic and international borders. People and money are now highly mobile and this presents enormous opportunities that unscrupulous criminals will exploit.

The Coalition Government is committed to making Australia a safer and more secure nation and we are seeing an unprecedented level of co-operation between Australian law enforcement agencies and state colleagues to target crime.

Since coming to Government the Coalition has:

- introduced Strike Teams in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia and placed liaison officers in South Australia and the Northern Territory as part of the National Anti-Gang Squad to detect and disrupt national and international criminal gangs – particularly in illicit drugs, firearms and money laundering;
- opened the Anti-Gangs Intelligence Coordination Centre within the Australian Crime Commission to collate federal and state law enforcement intelligence on criminal gangs;
- strengthened unexplained wealth laws to crackdown on criminals who flout their criminal activities;
- unlocked proceeds of crime to fund crime prevention projects under the $50 million Safer Streets Programme which delivers measures such as CCTV and security lighting in local communities;
- launched the $9.6 million Crimtrac gun crime intelligence network to increase the capability of all Australian police agencies to investigate firearm-related crime; and
- will soon introduce mandatory minimum sentencing of five years for anyone guilty of trafficking illicit firearms.


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