Crime Facts Info

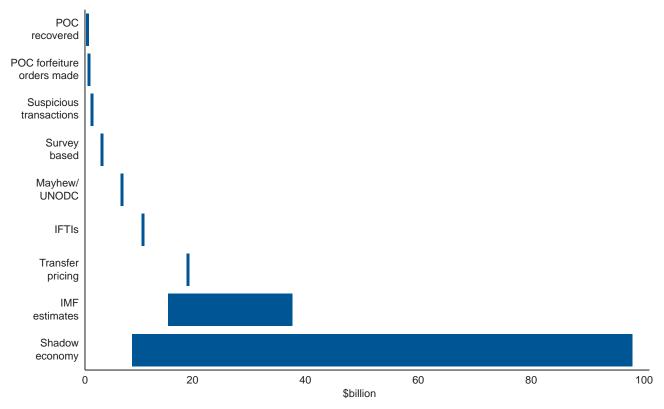


No. 157 18 September 2007

Money laundering in and through Australia

The extent of money laundering in and through Australia and its annual impact on the national economy can be estimated using a number of different methods. The figure below shows how these estimates can vary widely in both total amount and upper and lower limits, depending on the method used. A research project funded by the Criminology Research Council (Stamp & Walker 2007) reviewed estimates from several sources and conducted a survey of Australian and international anti-money laundering experts to arrive at a figure for 2004. The estimates ranged from a low of recovered proceeds of crime (POC; \$200m) and POC forfeiture orders (\$500m) through suspect transactions recorded by the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) at \$1 billion. At the higher end of the scale, the value of the shadow economy has been estimated to range from \$8.4b to more than \$80b. Stamp and Walker put the likely range between \$2.8b and \$6.3b, with the most likely losses from money laundering at around \$4.5b.

Estimates of money laundered in and through Australia, 2004 (\$b)



Source: Stamp & Walker 2007

Reference

Stamp J and Walker J 2007. Money laundered in and through Australia, 2004. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no. 342. http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi342.html