

# Pearls in Policing



**01:** Pearls in Policing conference delegates. **02:** A participant from the International Pearl Fishers Action Learning Group preparing for the Pearls in Policing conference presentation.

## Keeping one step ahead of criminals requires a full range of resources and the AFP is even exploiting the power of the mind to help fight borderless crime.

Law enforcement agencies around the world are facing the challenge of combating criminality that exploits today's increasingly complex and globalised society. While the internet, international travel, integrated finance systems and the constant stream of news has helped to create an international community, such advances have also increased the potential for ordinary people to become victims of crime.

If police arrest someone for drug possession, execute a warrant in relation to online child abuse material or catch someone using a fake credit card, there's every possibility they will find links to international criminal networks. But how can police protect people from criminal activity if they cannot identify the jurisdiction where the offence occurred? How can they stop identity fraud or embezzlement happening in Australia when the perpetrator lives in Eastern Europe?

These issues are helping to define a new paradigm for law enforcement. And the way in which agencies such as the AFP approach these problems and develop solutions will have a lasting impact on global security and stability.

AFP Commissioner Tony Negus believes there is a role for

think-tanks such as the Pearls in Policing initiative in this process.

"Predictive exercises are critical tools which enable us, as contemporary police executives, to prepare our workforce for possible eventualities and future challenges," he said.

"Forums such as Pearls in Policing help us to forecast where future obstacles may lie, and allow us to plot new routes forward. They help us to identify and implement the measures needed to create modern policing organisations that are adaptable and able to meet the future expectations of our communities and the governments we serve."

Pearls in Policing is an international initiative from top policing executives involving 27 countries across the globe. It encourages the sharing of ideas, knowledge and policing experience in an informal and interactive setting. Delegates are encouraged to engage in open discussion during the forum which is closed to the media and members of the public. Each year the conference looks ahead to the common challenges facing law enforcement and sets the theme for future research and discussion to inform the next conference.

In addition to finding new approaches to issues of common concern, the conference also helps to develop international policing relationships. These are crucial in the effort to combat transnational crime and prosecute criminal behaviour across a range of jurisdictional boundaries.

While the Pearls in Policing initiative is designed for high-ranking police executives, the AFP is involved in a number of forums with similar aims that encompass members at all levels of the organisation.

Ray Turner, who leads the AFP's Intelligence Capability Development Team, was recently involved in helping to organise an inter-agency colloquium hosted by the Leadership in Criminal Intelligence Program.



**02**

He said the annual event was designed to encourage discussion about how to find solutions for collective problems.

“One of the key things that came out of our most recent colloquium is the growing realisation that we are not alone,” he said.

“It’s really important to recognise that many of the challenges the AFP is facing are also being faced by other law enforcement agencies in our region.”

The Leadership in Criminal Intelligence Program (LCIP) was established to create an international centre of excellence in criminal intelligence. Each year it hosts a colloquium for members of law enforcement agencies to discuss an issue relevant to the intelligence community. This year, discussions concentrated on terrorism financing in South-East Asia with a focus on how to define the problem, find solutions and develop partnerships.

Representatives from policing agencies across the region were present, as well as delegates from relevant Australian Government departments. Some of the key points to come from the colloquium included the need for law enforcement agencies to develop expertise in specialist areas such as forensic accounting.

“Investigating the money trail to find out how terrorism organisations are being funded is not easy,” Mr Turner said.

“Police are not traditionally accounting experts, so law enforcement agencies need to find ways to develop those skills in order to conduct investigations more successfully.”

Delegates also looked at new methods criminals are using to move money around the globe, such as via mobile phone transfers and through the use of virtual realities and social networking sites. They also discussed the similarities and differences between terrorism funding and traditional forms of financial crime such as fraud and money laundering.

Linkages between different types of criminality are also of interest internally in the AFP, especially since the reorganisation of its crime functions. To address some of the issues arising from the restructure,

the newly-created Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) portfolio recently hosted a workshop.

This demonstrates that the principles used by think-tanks to come up with innovative solutions can be an effective part of an internal strategy, as well as a tool used to develop interagency relationships.

Over the course of three days, members of the SOC portfolio were encouraged to talk about a range of issues and challenges. Delegates looked at new ways of working together to combat crime, improve intelligence gathering, understand the relevant legislation and develop appropriate training for the new portfolio.

National Manager Serious and Organised Crime Kevin Zuccato said





**01:** Participants from the International Pearl Fishers Action Learning Group and Pearls in Policing delegates at a networking dinner in Sydney. **02:** Colloquium participants listening to a presentation. **03:** Participants from the International Pearl Fishers Action Learning Group discussing the Pearls in Policing conference presentation topic, Police Legitimacy and Public Trust. **04:** Participants from the International Pearl Fishers Action Learning Group working on the Pearls in Policing conference presentation.

it was important for members of the team to have a role in shaping the future of the new portfolio.

“In an environment where we are still trying to establish how we will move forward, members need to know their opinions and ideas are valued by the organisation,” Assistant Commissioner Zuccato said.

He believes open discussion about the challenges being faced by those trying to integrate the various streams of AFP activity is an important part of this process.

“Sometimes it takes a bit of lateral thinking to come up with an effective solution to an issue,” he said.

Lateral thinking was a key element of a recent conference organised jointly by the AFP and the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation in Indonesia. For the first time, police representatives were brought together from countries directly affected by people smuggling and human trafficking.

The issues for source, transit and destination countries are different, but the conference aimed to find new ways of cooperating that would benefit all countries involved. Through discussions on the economic and social impacts of the crime at each stage of the process, the conference promoted

the prioritisation of bilateral and regional cooperation to develop new ways to downgrade the transnational syndicates running the networks.

While law enforcement agencies may not traditionally be associated with the implementation of radical ideas and programs, the AFP is committed to ensuring that all avenues are examined to ensure the most effective solution to combating crime is implemented.

Think-tanks are an important part of the process and the organisation will continue to take part in a broad range of forums, conferences and workshops to ensure it remains at the cutting edge of law enforcement.

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