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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE



Taskforce Gordian strikes again Drug distribution syndicates disrupted

Ongoing targeting of drug trafficking and distribution syndicates by the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) Board approved taskforce led to further arrests in Melbourne and Sydney.

The ACC led Taskforce arrested a 25 year old man on Saturday morning and he has been charged by Victoria Police with serious drug trafficking offences. He faces up to 25 years jail if convicted.

Based on information provided by the ACC, Victorian Police stopped and searched a car on the Hume Highway north of Melbourne, where it's alleged they found 700 grams of heroin with a street value of between \$1 and \$1.5 million. The man was travelling from Sydney to Melbourne.

Subsequent to this seizure a home in Sydney was searched this morning. A 28 year old Sydney man will be charged with trafficking a commercial quantity of a controlled substance. If convicted he also faces up to 25 years jail. Action to recover proceeds of crime is also being considered.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Crime Commission, Alastair Milroy, says Taskforce Gordian is continuing to get excellent results.

"These arrests are further evidence of what can be achieved when Commonwealth and state law enforcement agencies collaborate and share information and resources. Taskforce Gordian has to date disrupted seven separate drug distribution syndicates operating in New South Wales and Victoria".

Taskforce Gordian is made up of the Australian Crime Commission, Australian Federal Police, Victorian Police, New South Wales Police, New South Wales Crime Commission, Australian Taxation Office, Australian Customs Service and AUSTRAC.

Taskforce Gordian has led to the arrest and prosecution of more than 60 people, 22 drug seizures and the restraint of more than \$2 million of assets by the ACC under proceeds of crime action since it commenced in May 2005.

In October 2006 Taskforce Gordian made numerous arrests against an alleged criminal syndicate responsible for laundering \$93 million overseas and members of three major drug trafficking syndicates suspected of importing and distributing heroin and methylamphetamine 'ice'.

For further information about the ACC, and its body of work known as its Determinations, visit: <http://www.crimecommission.gov.au>