

The comparability of law enforcement data across states and territories is progressively improving. For the information of agencies and individuals wishing to interpret the data, specific issues regarding jurisdictional data have been identified by the ACC and the relevant jurisdiction. These issues have been summarised by each jurisdiction provided in this report and are represented below.

## **New South Wales**

The recording systems of the New South Wales Police and the Australian Federal Police do not have joint agency operation identifiers, and as a result double counting may occur.

Seizure statistics for New South Wales could be overstated because some seizure records were found to measure an estimated quantity of drugs produced over the term of an operation, rather than the physical amount seized.

The *Illicit Drug Data Report's* tables reflect records extracted from the New South Wales Police database, which were subjected to limited quality assurance by the New South Wales Police following the exchange of unit records and verification reports.

Police statisticians and the ACC are progressing improvements to New South Wales drug data.

## **Victoria**

Victoria Police provided offender and seizure data. Drug quantities and weights reported are estimates only and are not validated by forensic results.

Victoria rewrote its extraction program and improved the data quality checks. Further data quality processes have been implemented to improve future data.

## **Queensland**

The Queensland Police Service provided offender and seizure data. The Police Service Statistical services section compared the Queensland arrest and seizure data aggregated by the NIDRF system with their own statistics and found only negligible difference between the aggregations.

## **South Australia**

The South Australia Police Service provided offender and seizure data, but did not include this data for offenders participating in the Drug Diversion Program.

Please note that comparison of this seizure data with previous years is not recommended due to differences in extraction and validation methods utilised over time. South Australia Police is currently reviewing its system and processes for capturing and reporting drug seizure data. This will improve the completeness and accuracy of data provided for future *Illicit Drug Data Reports*.

## **Western Australia**

The Western Australia Police Service introduced a new incident recording system in 2002–03, which changed its method for recording drug seizures. The implementation was progressive throughout the state, resulting in a dataset that contains information from both the old and new systems.

Differences in drug identification coding between the two systems will have resulted in some variances, and a probable undercount of both seizures and total seizure weights.

## **Tasmania**

Tasmania Police Service provided offender and seizure data.

## **Northern Territory**

Northern Territory Police Service continued to make major changes to its administrative data storage and extraction systems during 2002-03. The offender dataset from the Northern Territory contained records that do not identify offenders as consumers or providers. As with 2001-02 data, the ACC decided to code these records as 'Unknown' to meet the criteria for valid records and for inclusion in the number of total arrests.

Use of the new administrative data storage system will result in significant improvements in the quality of Northern Territory Police illicit drug data.

## **Australian Capital Territory**

The Australian Federal Police ACT Region provided offender and seizure data and improved the accuracy of the data provided for 2002-03. This data will differ from that provided for the Australian Capital Territory by the Australian Federal Police for the previous two years, so comparison across these years should be done with caution.

## **Australian Federal Police**

The Australian Federal Police Operations Monitoring Centre provided national offender, seizure and purity data for the Australian Federal Police. Joint seizures with Customs are represented within Australian Federal Police figures in Table 2.1.