

Term of reference (c) - The economic cost of countering future organised crime at a national and state and territory level

As social pressures and new opportunities for organised crime develop, the ACC and other law enforcement agencies will continue to be challenged to be flexible, innovative and forward-looking. Effective law enforcement responses to organised crime will require highly specialised operational policing and, increasingly, the acquisition of understanding about opportunities and dynamics driving changes in organised criminal behaviour. It will also require the development of initiatives that will help create an environment more resistant to organised criminal activity.

In addition, there will be a need for the ACC to effectively harness new and developing technologies, continue to build its technical infrastructure to provide for increasingly complex analyses, and maintain effective information management practices. Furthermore, with increasing levels of transnational crime, demands on translation and related services will rise.

In response to a resolution of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Australian Crime Commission in late 2004, the ACC Board requested that the ACC coordinate the development of an appropriate performance assessment framework. In collaboration with partners, the ACC has completed stage one of a two stage project to capture both effectiveness and efficiency performance dimensions of intelligence and operational law enforcement activity targeting serious and organised crime. The project aims to refine the ACC's performance measurement frameworks to enable a more accurate measurement and estimation of the costs of serious and organised crime, the effects of activity in mitigating and reducing these costs, and the associated return on investment metrics. The ACC Board is receiving periodic updates on the findings of this project.

While the ACC is not in a position to offer a specific comment on the economic cost of countering future organised crime, it is clear that the increasingly flexible nature of SOCGs and the extension of their activities across a range of illicit and legitimate markets continue to require informed decisions to be made about the application of the resources available to law enforcement. Agencies need to maintain effective mechanisms through which to present proposals to governments in support of additional funding where appropriate. In addition, strengthening research activity into the cost of countering organised crime by relevant government and non-government institutions will support law enforcement efforts.