

# A strategic alliance against crime

By Commissioner Mick Palmer

**W**ith the first anniversary of the publication of the *Review of Commonwealth Law Enforcement Arrangements* having just passed, the establishment of the infrastructure enabling an effective strategic alliance between the Australian Federal Police and the National Crime Authority as recommended by that report is well under way.

Operational and administrative arrangements have been developed that will bring about greater efficiencies in the Commonwealth law enforcement arena and lay the groundwork for effective law enforcement into the next century.

The future of law enforcement arrangements will be created which will emphasise shared ownership and reflect mutually recognised standards of expertise and training.

Compatibility, partnerships and strategic assessment will predominate over the more traditional and jurisdictionally based arrangements.

The coming years will offer an environment characterised by diversity, interaction and partnership between organised criminal groups; an environment of unprecedented flexibility, unpredictability, mobility and internationality.

If law enforcement agencies are to remain credible and relevant they must be equal to the challenge. Every effort, every dollar must be directed to improving individual and collective effectiveness. Police must become more flexible, imaginative, clever, patient, resourceful, more collegiate and more influential. Teamwork has always been essential to police work but law enforcement must recognise that the size and structure of the team has changed.

Whilst local knowledge of the patch will remain important, law enforcement officers must recognise their patch is part of a global patchwork quilt — a quilt of a thousand cultures and languages, of many governments and legal systems.

The continued development of strategic alliances among law enforcement agencies is critical to ensure that the Australian law enforcement effort remains focussed and effective.



Commissioner Mick Palmer

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