

The next generation

The Spectrum Program is an \$84 million initiative that will transform the AFP's processes and technologies. The Program is still under development but details of the concept and how it will affect the workplace are beginning to emerge.

The Spectrum Program (Spectrum) will support the AFP's ever-increasing law enforcement responsibility by providing the latest technology and business processes, and ensuring our policing continues to be cutting edge. Spectrum will design and develop the AFP's next generation of operational and intelligence systems and procedures. It will be driven by the AFP's unique needs and will result in one of the largest business change programs the AFP has ever undertaken.

The new systems and processes that Spectrum will provide will give greater efficiencies to AFP users. Spectrum will support AFP employees in their global fight against crime well into the future and will make their working lives easier.

Spectrum has its origins in a review of AFP operational support needs and management of information. A business case was tabled in Parliament and, in July 2007, resulted in funding of \$84 million being allocated to the program over five years. Spectrum now has a dedicated office made up of a team of operational and supporting specialists that sits within the Chief of Staff portfolio working directly to Deputy Commissioner National Security John Lawler.

Building the solid foundations of Spectrum is already well underway and has been informed by consultation with AFP staff through one-on-one and group discussions and various workshops. This has enabled



many future users to have input into Spectrum. They have been asked to describe their 'pain points' or areas where they find frustrations in current systems and processes. These have been translated into the benefits that Spectrum will deliver.

Information gathering and collaboration with other government agencies has also been a strong focus. This input will help guide the scope of the many projects that will make up Spectrum, contributing to improving partnerships with other agencies. The Program is using robust methodology and is being quality assured by external bodies that have scrutinised other similar government agency projects.

The Spectrum Program Sponsoring Group, made up of senior executives from operational and support areas of the AFP, and external stakeholder and business partner agencies, provides program sponsorship and guidance.

Despite a common misconception, Spectrum is not a replacement for the AFP's PROMIS (Police Real-time Online Management Information System).

Spectrum is an all-encompassing body of work involving many separate projects over five years, many of which will have no IT elements at all. According to Deputy Commissioner Lawler, the AFP's successful experience and expertise with PROMIS will be used to 'take it to another level'. "As government gives us additional responsibilities, we will be able to adapt more easily to meet these changing demands," Deputy Commissioner Lawler said. "By the end of the first half of 2009 we'll see products and tools progressively start to roll out to utilise, enjoy and benefit from."

Deputy Commissioner Lawler is maintaining a keen interest in Spectrum and encourages staff to work with and contact their Business Change Managers. "If the organisational change Spectrum will bring is to be business driven and remain relevant to our current and future needs, it needs to be business led. The ultimate success of the program will be judged by its ability to deliver benefits to the AFP."

Above: Spectrum Program members (standing from left) Brian Olson, Rosanne Freeman, Cameron Tully, Andrew Heldon. Seated from left: Craig Walker, Deputy Commissioner John Lawler and Spectrum Program Director Doug Witschi.