



Judicial Workshop on Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering
Tuesday 31 March 2009, 9am
Quay West Apartments, 132 Alice Street, Brisbane
Opening remarks

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice of Queensland

I am very pleased to welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, into this jurisdiction.

I commend the Honourable the Attorney-General and his officers for convening this important workshop, an aspect to which I will return.

The Attorney cannot be here until this afternoon, because of other commitments. I will not presume to deliver any extensive opening remarks, in these circumstances. It is more important that the practical business of the day proceed, and that you hear from the Attorney later on.

Present with us today are judicial officers from our Pacific neighbours and friends. I count a number of you as particular friends of mine, met through the biennial Pacific Judicial Conferences and Conferences of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific.

As to the latter, I hope to see you in Ho Chi Minh City later this year, when the Chief Justice of Vietnam will be hosting the 13th consecutive conference in that series from 8-12 November.

To my observation, the Australian government is strongly committed to assist in the development of legal infrastructure throughout the Pacific region. That became particularly evident to me, through the involvement of AusAid and NZAid at the 16th Pacific Judicial Conference in Vanuatu in the year 2005. It is no less than an obligation for this comparatively well off nation to render such assistance. It is also important to ensure all our regimes have in place batteries of appropriate mechanisms for the detection and



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prosecution of criminal activity, and most desirably, to deter or forestall its commission. The security or integrity of the region is impaired if any of its members presents as a soft target as it were; if there is capacity for crime because of an absence of appropriate restraining mechanisms.

Much contemporary crime can generate substantial financial return. The amphetamine trade in this jurisdiction provides a very good example. If those inclined to perpetrate this sort of crime are left in doubt about the security of the financial return, they may be dissuaded from yielding to temptation. I was interested to read in recent times of European pressure on the Swiss banking system to open up to the point where it cannot be used as the repository for gains unlawfully derived.

I do believe that in this nation and its constituent jurisdictions, governments have established reasonably effective mechanisms for dealing with the proceeds of crime, and I trust you will benefit over the next few days from exposure to them.

You may already know that the workshop has been designed with a substantially practical orientation. This judicial workshop is proceeding concurrently with a workshop for prosecutors and police. Both workshops will culminate in moot courts, with prosecutors and police appearing before judges of their own jurisdictions to present applications necessary for the restraint of illegally obtained property. A range of agencies and individual presenters will assist in the delivery to this judicial workshop, including Judge Milton Griffin of the District Court of Queensland, Sylvia Grono, Assistant Director, Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, and leading London barrister Mr Andrew Mitchell QC.

I wish you well in your endeavours over the next few days, and conclude by thanking you all for taking the trouble to attend this workshop. Its outcomes should be mutually beneficial, and important for the maintenance of good government throughout our region.