

Terms of Reference

Evaluation of Current ACT Policing Arrangements

Having regard to the unique collaborative arrangement for policing in the ACT that currently operates in the ACT, and the importance of strong and recognised relations between ACT Policing and the Canberra community, the Committee resolves to conduct an inquiry and review of all current arrangements and practices, including the following:

The terms and history of the current arrangements dated June 2017 (the 2017 policing arrangement) between the Minister of Justice (Commonwealth) and the ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

1. The reasons and rationale for the current model and operational business plans for ACT Policing.
2. The adequacy and reliability of the Purchase Agreement between ACT Government and the Commonwealth Government.
3. The scope and detail of current and future proposed services, obligations and support, from both the Commonwealth and the ACT which provide for the implementation and operations of ACT Policing.
4. The opportunities provided for the provision of policing services to the ACT under the benefits for both jurisdictions—including:
 - a. The opportunities provided under the 2017 policing arrangement for the AFP workforce to access community policing training and experience;
 - b. The access to current policing services provided under the 2017 policing arrangement, including the degree of independence in provision and implementation of police services in the ACT.
 - c. The resources and infrastructure, including training, selection, organisation, community involvement and factors relevant to provision and growth of policing services which are governed by the 2017 policing arrangement available to an independent ACT police service; and
 - d. The current accountability mechanisms established and utilised under the 2017 policing arrangement, including:
 - i. applicable current reporting requirements on exercise of ministerial control and direction;
 - ii. the Australian Government's current governance arrangements for the AFP;
 - iii. scrutiny and report of ACT Policing by the ACT Ombudsman;
 - iv. audit of ACT Policing by the ACT and Australian Auditors-General; and
 - v. oversight of ACT Policing and AFP by the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity.
5. Any specific matters which may require extension of the terms of the 2017 policing agreement or other Commonwealth Legislative Instruments. and, potentially, effect better policing outcomes by a greater focus on service delivery.
6. Other matters which are relevant to this inquiry.

The Committee is to report on the reference by the last sitting day in August 2020.