



THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2026

COMMUNIQUÉ**POLICE MINISTERS COUNCIL**

A Police Ministers Council meeting (PMC) was held on virtually on Thursday, 8 October 2026. The meeting was chaired by the Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Minister for Cyber Security, and Minister for the Arts. All jurisdictions were represented by Ministers, Police Commissioners and Senior Officials.

During the meeting, representatives expressed their condolences for the friends, families and colleagues of former Queensland Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski who passed away from cancer on 4 September 2026, and fallen New South Wales Police Force officer Constable Mia Lay who died in the line of duty on 25 September 2026.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Participants, in their capacity as members of the Inter-governmental Committee on the Australian Crime Commission (IGC-ACC):

- (a) **noted** the update on implementation of the Independent Review of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and associated Commonwealth law enforcement arrangements.

NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTER AND NATIONAL GUN BUYBACK

Participants:

- (a) **noted** updated National Firearms Agreement as signed by National Cabinet on 26 August 2026.
- (b) **noted** the update on implementation of the National Gun Buyback Scheme.
- (c) **noted** the progress of the National Firearms Register.

COUNTER TERRORISM ONLINE CENTRE

Participants:

- (a) **noted** the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Online Centre to coordinate and enhance national online counter-terrorism capabilities, to enable discovery of new and unknown threats, prevent online radicalisation, disrupt extremist content, and contribute to investigative responses.

ILLICIT TOBACCO UPDATE

Participants:

- (a) **noted** emerging insights, data and analysis on the illicit tobacco and e-cigarette market, provided by the Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner.
- (b) **agreed** a continued coordinated national response at a federal, state and territory level is critical for further downward pressure on the illicit market, including combatting emerging threats, reducing access and shifting the risk-reward calculus for serious and organised crime involved in the illicit trade.

CLOSING THE GAP: MISSING AND MURDERED FIRST NATIONS WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The Department of Social Services briefed the Police Ministers Council on the *Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children* (August 2024) report by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee.

Participants:

- (a) **noted** the presentation on the *Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children* (August 2024) report, and National Cabinet's agreement to progress the recommendations of the report with advice back to National Cabinet by the end of the year.
- (b) **agreed** to report back to National Cabinet by the end 2026 on progress for Recommendations 2 and 3, and separately consider options for how Recommendation 2 (focused on police practices) could be further progressed, and
- (c) **agreed** to invite the Department of Social Services to the next meeting of the Police Ministers Council, to determine how the Commonwealth and jurisdictions can collaborate in this critical area through development of the Second Action Plan of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

DFSV Second Action Plan: consultation findings and strategic implications for policing

Participants received a briefing on the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission's engagements to inform the development of the Commission's 2026 Yearly Report to Parliament and the Second Action Plan under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

Participants:

- (a) **noted** the Commissioner's update the Commission's 2026 Yearly Report to Parliament, and on consultation findings informing the development of the Second Action Plan.
- (b) **noted** the opportunity to strengthen cross-jurisdictional collaboration to strengthen responses to domestic, family and sexual violence through the Police Ministerial Council and other national policing forums.

- (c) **agreed** to consider these findings in the development of the Police Ministers' Council workplan for 2027.

Jurisdictional updates for recommendations 13c and 13e from the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches

Participants:

- (a) **noted** the jurisdictional updates for recommendations 13(c) and 13(e) from the *Report of the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches – Unlocking the Prevention Potential: accelerating action to end domestic, family and sexual violence*.

POLICE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Participants:

- (a) **noted** that financial modelling in relation to salary sacrifice and fringe benefit tax concession options for police officers will be considered by the Australia and New Zealand Police Commissioners Forum at its next meeting in November 2026.

NATIONAL HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS DATABASE

Participants:

- (a) **noted** next steps to support future implementation and expansion of the database.

COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATION UPDATE

Participants:

- (a) **noted** the update on Commonwealth law enforcement reforms and legislation.

DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION

Participants:

- (a) **endorsed** the 2026 joint jurisdictional update on progress to implement Recommendation 8.20 from the *Final Report* of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.