



REPORT: SECTION 15LD CRIMES ACT 1914

AUTHORITIES FOR ASSUMED IDENTITIES

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Purpose of this Report

Part IAC of the *Crimes Act 1914* (the Act) provides a statutory scheme for law enforcement agencies, defined in section 15K of the Act to include the Department of Home Affairs (the Department), to grant authorities for law enforcement officers to acquire or use assumed identities where it is necessary for one or more purposes listed in subsection 15KB(2) of the Act.

Under Part IAC, the chief officer of each law enforcement agency and their delegate may in accordance with section 15LH grant an authority to acquire or use assumed identities.

This report complies with the requirements of section 15LD of the Act in relation to authorities for assumed identities acquired and used by authorised law enforcement officers in the Department under Part IAC of the Act.

Under subsection 15LD(1), the Department is required to provide a report to the Attorney-General as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year, detailing:

- a) the number of authorities granted during the reporting period
- b) a general description of the activities undertaken by authorised civilians and authorised law enforcement officers when using assumed identities under Part IAC during the reporting period
- c) the number of applications for authorities that were refused during the year
- d) the number of authorities for which control was transferred by the chief officer under section 15KV during the reporting period
- e) the number of authorities for which control was transferred to the chief officer under section 15KV during the reporting period
- f) a statement whether or not any fraud or other unlawful activity was identified by an audit under section 15LG during the reporting period
- g) any other information relating to authorities and assumed identities and the administration of Part IAC that the Attorney-General considers appropriate.

Subsection 15LD(3) of the Act requires the Attorney-General to table a copy of this report before each House of Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after the day on which the Attorney-General receives this report.

Department of Home Affairs Report on use of Assumed Identities pursuant to section 15K of the Act.

During the 2020-21 financial year:

- a) there were thirteen (13) new authorities granted
- b) assumed identities were used by authorised law enforcement officers within the Department for human source management and surveillance activities undertaken for investigation and intelligence gathering in relation to criminal activities under the *Customs Act 1901* and *Migration Act 1958* (Cth)
- c) no applications for authorities were refused
- d) no authorities were transferred by the chief officer
- e) no authorities were transferred to the chief officer
- f) a review of the use of assumed identities was conducted in July 2021 and did not identify any instances of fraudulent or unlawful activity by law enforcement officers in the Department
- g) Two (2) authorities were cancelled.