



Commissioner's Statement of Intent

The AFP is committed to our vision of **policing for a safer Australia**. We remain dedicated to enforcing the rule of law and maintaining the trust and confidence of the community and government. Section 8 of the *Australian Federal Police (AFP) Act* outlines the policing services that we deliver, informed by the key priorities outlined in the AFP's [Ministerial Direction](#) issued by the Attorney-General.

Delivery of federal and community policing, and protective services, is critical to the protection of lives, livelihoods and Commonwealth interests. We ensure strong **police-to-community relationships** at the local, national and international level and work closely with our partners to deliver outcomes for a safer Australia. We continue to provide exceptional policing and protective services, meeting the needs of our diverse communities by enforcing the criminal law, and disrupting and responding to threats to **maximise our operational impact**.

The [2023 AFP Blue Paper](#) highlights the long-term view of our strategic and operational needs. In recognition of the continually evolving threat environment, and consistent with our enduring focus, our key priorities across all Commands will be: **protecting lives, protecting Australia's way of life, and maximising our impact on the criminal environment**.

As a policing agency with a global footprint, we leverage our unique position to **gather critical insights, information and intelligence into threats**, and identify both issues and opportunities that are confronting Australia and our region.

To ensure that we are the **employer of choice across law enforcement**, we will continue to examine our workforce capability model, our attraction and retention initiatives, and maintain a priority focus on the health and wellbeing of our people. We will enhance our strong and effective leadership, ensure the AFP values underpin our decisions, and continue to develop and deliver critical and core capabilities needed for today and into the future.

We will continue to **prioritise partnerships and use the collective knowledge** of the law enforcement community to disrupt crime and accelerate outcomes. We will cooperate and collaborate with Commonwealth, State and Territory law enforcement and security agencies, as well as our international partners to prevent, disrupt and investigate activities threatening Australia's interests. And given we know more than 70 per cent of organised criminals seeking to harm Australia are based offshore, we will maximise the effects of our international footprint to fight crime at its source and ensure a safer Australia.

Our **innovative use of technology** to disrupt criminal activity has proven effective and we will continue to build on this success by applying inventive and practical approaches. We will continue to work across government and with industry to develop specialist technical capabilities to detect, deter and disrupt crime at the first possible instance. We will ensure robust governance frameworks and oversight mechanisms support our efforts, knowing our use of technology must be ethical and consistent with legal requirements and community expectations.

The trust and confidence of the community is our priority: the police are the community and the community are the police. Consequently, **engagement with the community** is critical to gathering information and intelligence, addressing criminal threats, building trust and maintaining legitimacy.

Our mission since inception has been to protect Australians and Australia's interests. We must ensure we remain **flexible and agile, and effectively prioritise our resources to have maximum impact** on the criminal environment today and into the future.

Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner