



The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Minister for Cyber Security
Minister for the Arts
Leader of the House

I issue this Ministerial Direction under subsection 37(2) of the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979* Cth (the AFP Act). It supersedes and revokes the Direction issued on 20 October 2023.

The Albanese Government maintains a vision for a safe, prosperous and cohesive Australia now and for future generations. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has a critical role to play in realising that vision, as a Commonwealth national security agency and Australia's federal policing agency – upholding and enforcing Commonwealth criminal law and protecting Australia and Australians from threats to its security.

The AFP operates in a highly complex and rapidly evolving national security environment and must remain agile and responsive to changing demands. The evolving threat environment sees complex and converging threats to Australia's sovereignty, social cohesion, and security. To meet the challenges of this complex and evolving environment, I expect the AFP to develop a high performing, capability-driven workforce that prioritises innovation and responsibly uses science and technology to optimise its performance.

I expect the AFP to uphold the highest integrity standards when undertaking its activities, to strengthen and maintain the confidence and trust of the community which we serve. The AFP must have strong financial management practices and robust corporate governance, whilst continuing to support the health and wellbeing of its people, in the pursuit of operational outcomes.

When performing its functions under section 8 of the AFP Act, I expect the AFP to have particular regard to the following priorities:

Protect Australia's National Security

- Safeguarding Australia, Australians and communities against national security threats, and protecting Australia, Australians and communities from terrorism, espionage, foreign interference, violent extremism and politically motivated violence.
- Identify, prevent, deter, disrupt and investigate the illegal trafficking of people or illicit commodities, such as illicit tobacco, where it causes high harm to

Australians, or where there is a nexus to other national security interests.

- Identify and investigate where crime as a service or violence as a service is the mechanism used by threat actors who traffic illicit commodities or engage in people smuggling to the detriment of Australia's sovereignty.
- Identify and investigate national security criminal convergences that impact on the physical safety of communities and undermine community confidence.
- Ensure the security of High Office Holders and Parliamentarians and protect Commonwealth interests and designated airports from threats originating in Australia and overseas.
- Utilising arrangements such as the Joint Policing Cybercrime Coordination Centre (JPC3), deter malicious actors from targeting the Australian cyber environment across government, industry and the community and continue to build Australia's resilience to cyber security threats.
- Contribute to Australia's economic security and prosperity through deterring and investigating those seeking to disrupt Commonwealth revenue and interests.
- Enable and enhance cooperation and interoperability with Commonwealth, state and territory partners, and ensure a coordinated and collaborative approach to respond to threats to Australia's domestic security.

Strengthen Social Cohesion and Resilience

- Through the Counter-Terrorism Online Centre (CTOC) and other operational efforts, disrupt and investigate offenders who damage our social fabric and create hatred, division and violence targeted at vulnerable communities.
- Safeguard the community, including youth from radicalisation from those who would seek to create hatred, division and violence in our communities.
- Identify, prevent, disrupt and investigate the exploitation of children (through the work of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation), as well as other human exploitation, with a focus on protecting and supporting victims and removing them from harm.
- Cultivate and strengthen relationships with the Australian community through engagement with community leaders, non-government organisations, and academia.

Contribute to Regional Security

- Support efforts with regional partners, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region to enhance regional security and maintain law and order.
- Advance Australia's interests under the AUKUS alliance, through the provision of protective security arrangements in conjunction with trilateral partners.
- Strengthen partnerships and relationships with Commonwealth, state and territory and international law enforcement and other national security partners to identify, disrupt and deter threats before they harm Australian communities or Australia's sovereignty.
- Address criminal and other security threats offshore to prevent harm reaching Australian shores, through influence and engagement with international partners.

Regarding the investigation of unauthorised disclosure of material made or obtained by a current or former Commonwealth officer involving a professional journalist or news media organisation, I expect the AFP to take into account the importance of a free and open press in Australia's democratic society and to consider the broader public interest implications before considering investigative action involving a professional journalist or news media organisation.

I also expect the AFP to exhaust all alternative lines of inquiry and to seek voluntary assistance wherever operationally possible from a professional journalist or news media organisation, prior to exercising powers against a journalist or news media organisation.

Further, the AFP should follow the National Guideline on investigative action involving professional journalists or news media organisations and have regard to any whole-of-government guidance that may be issued concerning the levels of harm caused to Australia's national interest by disclosure of the various types of information held across government.



Tony Burke

16 / 7 / 2026