



The Hon Peter Dutton MP

Minister for Home Affairs

14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (‘Kyoto Crime Congress’)

Transcript of Australia’s National Statement

Thank you to Japan, our host nation, for ensuring this important forum continues.

Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law is important to us all.

Transnational, serious and organised crime undermines national sovereignty, our prosperity and our security.

Australia remains committed to working with our international partners to dismantle organised crime syndicates, not only at home, but indeed around the world, to prevent criminals from inhibiting our development and growth, undermining our institutions, and endangering vulnerable people and communities.

Now, more than ever, we must be united globally in our response to crime. Individual Governments can’t do this alone, international collaboration is vital to counter emerging challenges in this space.

Our shared priority, is to protect our citizens and our nations against crime.

Australia has developed a National Strategy to Fight Transnational, Serious and Organised Crime which sets out how Australia works domestically and internationally to tackle transnational crime, in collaboration with the private sector and indeed the broader community.

In 2018 Australia established the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, a collaborative venture that brings together government, academia and industry to provide a cohesive and effective response to child exploitation and abuse.

The Australian Centre has already achieved significant outcomes: between of July 2019 and June 2020, 134 children were removed from harm as a result of these partnerships and the efforts of dedicated police officers and specialists.

The most recent operation coordinated by the Australian Centre led to 66 offenders being charged with 529 offences, and 18 children being removed from harm.

In 2020, 191 people were charged with more than 1,800 Federal child sex offences.

Regrettably, it is becoming more difficult for law enforcement in Australia and around the world to detect, investigate and prosecute online criminality.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of encryption and anonymising technologies, however end-to-end encryption is exploited by criminals in order to conceal their vile and illicit activities.

This comes at a time where, because of the pandemic, offenders are exploiting the fact that children are spending more and more time online.

Last year, we, along with six other governments, signed the International Statement on end-to-end encryption and public safety, calling on technology companies to work with governments to ensure their platforms are secure, and protect both user privacy and public safety.

This week marks one year since the launch of the Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, developed by five governments in collaboration with social media platforms to create a safer online world for our children.

Our unflinching commitment is to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

As a global community and through fora like this Crime Congress, we can work towards disrupting the most abhorrent of crimes that deprive our communities of their livelihoods and safety.

Thank you very much.

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