13 October 2005

CHILD OFFENDER REGISTER ON NATIONAL AGENDA

Police Minister Paul Henderson will encourage the South Australian and Tasmanian Governments to fast track their involvement in the Australian National Child Offender Register (ANCOR) scheme at the Australasian Police Ministers Council meeting in Brisbane tomorrow.

“There is overwhelming support for ANCOR to become a truly national scheme to ensure there is no weak link in the chain,” Mr Henderson said.

“The Northern Territory was one of the first jurisdictions to join ANCOR, with the register officially launched in January this year.

“As at the end of 2004/05, there were 18 people convicted child sex offenders in the Northern Territory registered on ANCOR – five of whom are required to report to Police for the rest of their lives – and a further 55 convicted child sex offenders who will be added to the register on their release from jail.

“It is pleasing there is ANCOR involvement in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, and with the Australian Capital Territory coming on line next month only South Australia and Tasmania will be left without the enabling legislation.

“I know both these states are committed to the scheme, and I will do what I can to urge them to fast track their involvement because the Register is too important to have not have every on board.”

Other items on the agenda at the Police Ministers Council include a national child abduction alert strategy and a national missing persons’ policy, and an update on national counter terrorism measures.

Mr Henderson leaves for Brisbane this afternoon.

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