

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY (TERRITORY PROVISIONS) ACT

As in force at 1 July 1996

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY (TERRITORY PROVISIONS) ACT

An Act to make provision for the operation of the National Crime Authority in the Territory

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *National Crime Authority (Territory Provisions) Act*.

2 Commencement

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Administrator by notice in the *Gazette*.

3 Interpretation

(1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

Commonwealth Act means the *National Crime Authority Act 1984* of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Minister means the Minister of State of the Commonwealth administering the Commonwealth Act.

hearing means a hearing for the purposes of a special investigation.

Registrar, in relation to a court, includes the proper officer, however described, of that court.

special function means a special function referred to in section 5(4).

special investigation means an investigation that the Authority is conducting in the performance of its special functions.

(2) Expressions used in this Act that are also used in the Commonwealth Act have in this Act, unless the contrary intention appears, the same respective meanings as those expressions have in the Commonwealth Act.

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- (3) Where the Authority suspects that an offence that is not a relevant offence as defined in section 4(1) of the Commonwealth Act may be directly or indirectly connected with, or may be a part of, a course of activity involving the commission of a relevant offence as so defined, whether or not the Authority has identified the nature of that relevant offence, the first-mentioned offence shall, for so long only as the Authority so suspects, be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to be a relevant offence.

4 Act to bind the Crown

This Act binds the Crown in right of the Territory.

5 Functions under laws of the Territory

- (1) The Minister may, with the approval of the Inter-Governmental Committee, by notice in writing to the Authority, refer a matter relating to a relevant criminal activity to the Authority for investigation in so far as the relevant offence is, or the relevant offences are or include, an offence or offences against a law of the Territory.
- (2) Where a matter has been so referred to the Authority, the Authority is not precluded by any law of the Territory from investigating that matter.
- (3) A notice referred to in subsection (1) referring a matter to the Authority shall:
- (a) describe the general nature of the circumstances or allegations constituting the relevant criminal activity;
 - (b) state that the relevant offence is, or the relevant offences are or include, an offence or offences against a law of the Territory but need not specify the particular offence or offences; and
 - (c) set out the purpose of the investigation.
- (3A) The Minister may, with the approval of the Inter-Governmental Committee:
- (a) in a notice under subsection (1) referring the matter to the Authority, state that the reference is related to another reference; or
 - (b) in a notice in writing to the Authority, state that a reference already made to the Authority by the Minister is related to another reference.

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- (4) Where a reference to the Authority made under subsection (1) by the Minister is in force in respect of a matter relating to a relevant criminal activity, it is a special function of the Authority to investigate the matter in so far as the relevant offence is, or the relevant offences are or include, an offence or offences against a law of the Territory.
 - (5) Where a matter has been referred to the Authority in accordance with subsection (1), the Minister may at any time, by notice in writing to the Authority, withdraw the reference.

6 Performance of functions

- (1) The Authority shall, in performing a special function, assemble any evidence of an offence against a law of the Commonwealth or of a Territory, or of an offence against a law of a State, that it obtains in the course of its investigations, being evidence that would be admissible in the prosecution of a person for that offence, and furnish that evidence to the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth or of the State or to the relevant law enforcement agency or any person or authority (other than a law enforcement agency) who is authorised by or under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State to prosecute the offence.
- (2) The Authority shall, in performing a special function, co-operate and consult with the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence.
- (3) Where, as a result of the performance of a special function, the Authority considers that a recommendation should be made to the Minister, to the Commonwealth Minister or to the appropriate Minister of the Crown of a participating State, being a recommendation for reform of:
 - (a) the law relating to relevant offences, including:
 - (i) evidence and procedure applicable to the trials of relevant offences;
 - (ii) relevant offences in relation to, or involving, corporations;
 - (iii) taxation, banking and financial frauds;
 - (iv) reception by Australian courts of evidence obtained in foreign countries as to relevant offences; and
 - (v) maintenance and preservation of taxation, banking and financial records;
 - (b) administrative practices; or

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- (c) administration of the courts in relation to trials of relevant offences,

the Authority may make the recommendation to the Minister, to the Commonwealth Minister or to that Minister of the Crown of that participating State, as the case may be.

- (4) In relation to the performance by the Authority of a special function, nothing in this Act (other than section 17) shall be taken to confer on:
 - (a) a member, or on a member of the staff of the Authority (other than a member of the Australian Federal Police or a member of the Police Force of the Territory or a State), a power to interview a person in relation to an offence that the person is suspected of having committed, except in a case where the person has been served, as prescribed, with a summons to appear as a witness at a hearing before the Authority and has not yet so appeared; or
 - (b) a member of the staff of the Authority who is a member of the Australian Federal Police or the Police Force of a State a power to interview a person that the member of the staff of the Authority does not have in his capacity as a member of the Australian Federal Police or of the Police Force of that State, as the case may be.
- (5) Nothing in subsection (4)(a) shall be taken to affect a power of a member, or of a member of the staff of the Authority, to interview a person otherwise than in relation to an offence that the person is suspected of having committed.
- (6) Where the Authority has obtained particular information or intelligence in the course of performing a special function, nothing in this Act shall be taken to prevent the Authority from making use of the information or intelligence in the performance of any of its other functions.

7 Members may have concurrent functions and powers under laws of the Territory

If:

- (a) with the consent of the Inter-Governmental Committee, a function or power in relation to the investigation of matters relating to a relevant criminal activity is conferred on a member or members by the Administrator or a Minister; and
- (b) the Commonwealth Minister informs the member or members in writing that the Commonwealth Minister is satisfied that that

function or power may conveniently be performed or exercised in conjunction with the performance or exercise by the Authority of its functions or powers under the Commonwealth Act,

then, notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act, the member or members referred to in paragraph (a) shall perform the function, or may exercise the power, referred to in that paragraph in conjunction with the performance or exercise by the Authority of its functions or powers under the Commonwealth Act, this Act or a corresponding Act of a State, and the members of the staff of the Authority may be employed by the Authority in assisting the member or members referred to in paragraph (a) in the performance of the function or the exercise of the power referred to in that paragraph.

8 Limitation on challenges to validity of references

Where, with the approval of the Inter-Governmental Committee, the Minister refers a matter to the Authority for investigation, then, except in a proceeding instituted by the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth or the Attorney-General of a State, any act or thing done by the Authority in pursuance of the reference shall not be challenged, reviewed, quashed or called in question in a court of the Territory on the ground that a necessary approval of the Inter-Governmental Committee or consent of the Commonwealth Minister has not been obtained or was not lawfully given.

9 Co-operation with law enforcement agencies

- (1) In performing its special functions, the Authority shall, so far as practicable, work in co-operation with law enforcement agencies.
- (2) In performing its special functions, the Authority may co-ordinate its activities with the activities of authorities and persons in other countries performing functions similar to the functions of the Authority.

10 Incidental powers of Authority

The Authority has power to do all things necessary to be done for or in connection with, or reasonably incidental to, the performance of its special functions, and a specific power conferred on the Authority by this Act shall not be taken to limit by implication the generality of this section.

11 Arrangements for Authority to obtain information or intelligence

The Minister may make an arrangement with the Commonwealth Minister for the Authority to be given by the Territory, or by an authority of the Territory, information or intelligence relating to relevant criminal activities.

12 Search warrants

- (1) A member may apply to a Judge for the issue of a warrant under subsection (2) if the member:
 - (a) has reasonable grounds for suspecting that, on a particular day (in this section referred to as the **relevant day**), being the day on which, or a particular day within one month after the day on which, the application is made, there may be, upon any land or upon or in any premises, vessel, aircraft or vehicle, a thing or things of a particular kind connected with a matter relating to a relevant criminal activity, being a matter into which the Authority is conducting a special investigation (in this section referred to as **things of the relevant kind**); and
 - (b) believes on reasonable grounds that, if a summons were issued for the production of the thing or things, the thing or things might be concealed, lost, mutilated or destroyed.
- (2) Where an application under subsection (1) is made to a Judge, the Judge may issue a warrant authorizing a member of the Australian Federal Police or of the Police Force of the Territory or a State, or any other person, named in the warrant, with such assistance as the member or person thinks necessary and if necessary by force:
 - (a) to enter upon the land or upon or into the premises, vessel, aircraft or vehicle;
 - (b) to search the land, premises, vessel, aircraft or vehicle for things of the relevant kind; and
 - (c) to seize any things of the relevant kind found upon the land or upon or in the premises, vessel, aircraft or vehicle and deliver things so seized to the Authority.
- (3) A Judge shall not issue a warrant under subsection (2) unless:
 - (a) an affidavit has been furnished to the Judge setting out the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being sought;

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- (b) the applicant or some other person has given to the Judge, either orally or by affidavit, such further information, if any, as the Judge requires concerning the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being sought; and
 - (c) the Judge is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for issuing the warrant.
- (4) Where a Judge issues a warrant under subsection (2), he shall state on the affidavit furnished as mentioned in subsection (3)(a) which of the grounds specified in that affidavit has or have been relied on to justify the issue of the warrant and particulars of any other grounds relied on to justify the issue of the warrant.
- (5) A warrant issued under this section shall:
- (a) include a statement of the purpose for which it is issued, which shall include a reference to the matter relating to a relevant criminal activity into which the Authority is conducting a special investigation and with which the things of the relevant kind are connected;
 - (b) state whether entry is authorized to be made at any time of the day or night or during specified hours of the day or night;
 - (c) include a description of the kind of things authorized to be seized; and
 - (d) specify a date, not being later than one month after the date of issue of the warrant, upon which it ceases to have effect.
- (6) A warrant issued under this section may be executed, in accordance with its terms, at any time during the period commencing on the relevant day and ending on the date specified in the warrant as the date upon which it ceases to have effect.
- (7) Where, in the course of searching, in accordance with the terms of a warrant issued under this section, for things of the relevant kind, the person executing it finds a thing that he believes on reasonable grounds to be evidence that would be admissible in the prosecution of a person for an offence against a law of the Commonwealth, of a State or of a Territory, and the first-mentioned person believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to seize the thing in order to prevent its concealment, loss, mutilation or destruction, or its use in committing such an offence, that person may seize the thing and, if the thing is so seized, it shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to have been seized pursuant to the warrant.

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- (8) Where a thing is seized pursuant to a warrant issued under this section:
- (a) the Authority may retain the thing if, and for so long as, retention of the thing by the Authority is reasonably necessary for the purposes of a special investigation to which the thing is relevant; and
 - (b) if the retention of the thing by the Authority is not, or ceases to be, reasonably necessary for such purposes, a member shall cause the thing to be delivered to:
 - (i) if the thing may be used in evidence in proceedings of a kind referred to in subsection (13) – the Authority or person responsible for taking the proceedings; or
 - (ii) if sub-paragraph (i) does not apply – the person who appears to the Authority to be entitled to the possession of the thing, unless a member has furnished the thing to the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth or of the Territory or a State, or to a law enforcement agency, in accordance with the Commonwealth Act, this Act or an Act of a State.
- (9) A member may, instead of delivering a thing in accordance with subsection (8)(b)(ii), deliver the thing to the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth or of a State, or to a law enforcement agency, for the purpose of assisting in the investigation of criminal offences, where a member is satisfied that the thing is likely to be useful for that purpose.
- (10) Nothing in this section affects a right of a person to apply for, or the power of a person to issue, a warrant, being a right or power existing otherwise than by virtue of this section.
- (11) A reference in this section to a Judge of a prescribed court shall include a reference to:
- (a) a Judge of the Federal Court; or
 - (b) a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- (12) In this section, **thing** includes a document.
- (13) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1)(a), a reference in this section to a thing connected with a matter relating to a relevant criminal activity, being a matter into which the Authority is conducting a special investigation, includes a reference to a thing that may be used in evidence in proceedings for the taking, by or on behalf of the Crown in right of the Territory, of civil remedies in

respect of a matter connected with, or arising out of, an offence to which the relevant criminal activity relates.

13 Application by telephone for search warrants

- (1) Where, by reason of circumstances of urgency, a member considers it necessary to do so, the member may make application by telephone for a warrant under section 12.
- (2) Before making an application referred to in subsection (1), the member shall prepare an affidavit that sets out the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being sought, but may, if it is necessary to do so, make the application before the affidavit has been sworn.
- (3) Where a Judge issues a warrant under section 12 upon an application made by telephone, he shall:
 - (a) complete and sign the warrant;
 - (b) inform the member who made the application of the terms of the warrant and the date on which and the time at which it was signed;
 - (c) record on the warrant the reasons for issuing it; and
 - (d) send a copy of the warrant to the Authority.
- (4) Where a warrant is issued under section 12 upon an application made by telephone, a member of the staff of the Authority or a member of the Australian Federal Police or of the Police Force of the Territory or a State may complete a form of warrant in the terms indicated by the Judge under subsection (3) and, where a form of warrant is so completed, shall write on it the name of the Judge who issued it and the date on which and the time at which it was signed.
- (5) Where a person completes a form of warrant in accordance with subsection (4), he shall, not later than the next day following the date of expiry of the warrant, send to the Judge who signed it the form of warrant completed by the person and the affidavit duly sworn in connection with the warrant.
- (6) Upon receipt of the documents referred to in subsection (5), the Judge shall attach them to the warrant signed by him and shall deal with the documents in the manner in which he would have dealt with the affidavit if the application for the warrant had been made to the Judge in accordance with section 12.
- (7) A form of warrant duly completed in accordance with subsection (4) shall be deemed to be a warrant issued under section 12.

14 Judges to perform functions under Commonwealth Act

A Judge of the Supreme Court may perform functions conferred on the Judge by section 22 or 23 of the Commonwealth Act.

15 Order for delivery to Authority of passport of witness

(1) Where, on application by a member, a Judge of the Federal Court sitting in chambers is satisfied by evidence on oath that:

(a) in connection with a special investigation, a summons has been issued under this Act requiring a person to appear before the Authority at a hearing (whether or not the summons has been served), or a person has appeared before the Authority at a hearing, to give evidence or to produce documents or other things;

(b) there are reasonable grounds for believing that the person may be able to give to the Authority evidence or further evidence that is, or to produce to the Authority documents or other things or further documents or other things that are, relevant to the matter in respect of which the Authority is conducting the investigation and could be of particular significance to the investigation; and

(c) there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person intends to leave Australia and has possession, custody or control of a passport issued or purported to be issued to the person,

the Judge may make an order requiring the person to appear before the Federal Court on a day, and at a time and place, specified in the order to show cause why the person should not be ordered to deliver the passport to the Authority.

(2) Where a person appears before the Federal Court in pursuance of an order made under subsection (1), the Court may, if it thinks fit, make an order:

(a) requiring the person to deliver to the Authority any passport issued or purported to be issued to the person that is in the possession, custody or control of the person; and

(b) authorizing the Authority to retain the passport until the expiration of such period (not exceeding one month) as is specified in the order.

(3) The Federal Court may, on application by a member, extend for a further period (not exceeding one month) or further periods (not exceeding one month in each case) the period for which the

Authority is authorized to retain a passport in pursuance of an order made under subsection (2), but so that the total period for which the Authority is authorized to retain the passport does not exceed 3 months.

- (4) The Federal Court may, at any time while the Authority is authorized in pursuance of an order made under this section to retain a passport issued to a person, upon application made by the person, revoke the order and, if the order is revoked, a member shall forthwith return the passport to the person.
- (5) The Federal Court has jurisdiction with respect to matters arising under this section.
- (6) In this section, ***Australia*** includes the external Territories.

16 Hearing

- (1) For the purposes of a special investigation, the Authority may hold hearings.
- (2) At a hearing, the Authority may be constituted by one or more members.
- (3) The Chairperson shall preside at all hearings at which the Chairperson is present.
- (3A) If the Chairperson is not present at a hearing at which there are 2 or more members, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the hearing.
- (3B) Questions arising at a hearing shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present.
- (3C) The person presiding at a hearing has a deliberative vote and, if necessary, also has a casting vote.
- (3D) The Authority may regulate the conduct of proceedings at a hearing as it thinks fit.
- (4) At a hearing before the Authority:
 - (a) a person giving evidence may be represented by a legal practitioner; and
 - (b) if, by reason of the existence of special circumstances, the Authority consents to a person who is not giving evidence being represented by a legal practitioner, the person may be so represented.

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- (5) A hearing before the Authority shall be held in private and the Authority may give directions as to the persons who may be present during the hearing or a part of the hearing.
- (6) Nothing in a direction given under subsection (5) by the Authority prevents the presence, when evidence is being taken at a hearing before the Authority, of:
- (a) a person representing the person giving evidence; or
 - (b) a person representing, in pursuance of subsection (4), a person who, by reason of a direction given under subsection (5) by the Authority, is entitled to be present.
- (7) Where a hearing before the Authority is being held, a person (other than a member, or a member of the staff of the Authority approved by the Authority) shall not be present at the hearing unless the person is entitled to be present by reason of a direction given under subsection (5) by the Authority or by reason of subsection (6).
- (8) At a hearing before the Authority for the purposes of a special investigation:
- (a) counsel assisting the Authority generally or in relation to the matter to which the investigation relates;
 - (b) a person authorized by the Authority to appear before it at the hearing; or
 - (c) a legal practitioner representing a person, in pursuance of subsection (4), at the hearing,
- may, so far as the Authority thinks fit, examine or cross-examine a witness on any matter that the Authority considers relevant to the special investigation.
- (9) The Authority may direct that:
- (a) evidence given before it;
 - (b) the contents of a document, or a description of a thing, produced to the Authority or seized pursuant to a warrant issued under section 12;
 - (c) information that might enable a person who has given evidence before the Authority to be identified; or
 - (d) the fact that a person has given or may be about to give evidence at a hearing,

shall not be published, or shall not be published except in such manner, and to such persons, as the Authority specifies, and the Authority shall give such a direction if the failure to do so might, in its opinion, prejudice the safety or reputation of a person or prejudice the fair trial of a person who has been or may be charged with an offence.

(9A) Subject to subsection (9B), the Chairperson may, in writing, vary or revoke a direction under subsection (9).

(9B) The Chairperson shall not vary or revoke a direction if to do so might prejudice the safety or reputation of a person or prejudice the fair trial of a person who has been or may be charged with an offence.

(10) Where:

(a) a person has been charged with an offence before a court of the Territory; and

(b) the court considers that it may be desirable in the interests of justice that particular evidence given before the Authority, being evidence in relation to which the Authority has given a direction under subsection (9), be made available to the person or to a legal practitioner representing the person,

the court may give to the Authority a certificate to that effect and, if the court does so, the Authority shall make the evidence available to the court.

(11) Where:

(a) the Authority makes evidence available to a court in accordance with subsection (10); and

(b) the court, after examining the evidence, is satisfied that the interests of justice so require,

the court may make the evidence available to the person charged with the offence concerned or to a legal practitioner representing the person.

(12) A person who:

(a) is present, in contravention of subsection (7), at a hearing; or

(b) makes a publication in contravention of a direction given under subsection (9),

is guilty of a simple offence.

Penalty: \$2,000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

17 Power to summon witnesses and take evidence

- (1) A member may summon a person to appear before the Authority at a hearing to give evidence and to produce such documents or other things, if any, as are referred to in the summons.
- (2) A summons under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by a copy of the notice, or of each of the notices, by which the matter to which the hearing relates was referred to the Authority.
- (3) A summons under subsection (1) requiring a person to appear before the Authority at a hearing shall, unless the member issuing the summons is satisfied that, in the particular circumstances of the special investigation to which the hearing relates, it would prejudice the effectiveness of the special investigation for the summons to do so, set out, so far as is practicable, the general nature of the matters in relation to which the Authority intends to question the person, but nothing in this subsection prevents the Authority from questioning the person in relation to a matter that relates to a special investigation.
- (4) The member presiding at a hearing before the Authority may require a person appearing at the hearing to produce a document or other thing.
- (5) The Authority may, at a hearing, take evidence on oath or affirmation and for that purpose:
 - (a) a member may require a person appearing at the hearing to give evidence either to take an oath or to make an affirmation in a form approved by the member presiding at the hearing; and
 - (b) a member, or a person who is an authorized person in relation to the Authority, may administer an oath or affirmation to a person so appearing at the hearing.
- (6) In this section, a reference to a person who is an authorized person in relation to the Authority is a reference to a person authorized in writing, or a person included in a class of persons authorized in writing, for the purposes of this section by the Chairperson.

18 Power to obtain documents

- (1) A member may, by notice in writing served on a person, require the person:
 - (a) to attend, at a time and place specified in the notice, before a person specified in the notice, being a member or a member of the staff of the Authority; and
 - (b) to produce at that time and place to the person so specified a document or thing specified in the notice, being a document or thing that is relevant to a special investigation.
- (2) A notice may be issued under this section in relation to a special investigation whether or not a hearing before the Authority is being held for the purposes of the investigation.
- (3) A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to comply with a notice served under this section on the person.

Penalty: \$1,000 or imprisonment for 6 months.

- (4) Section 19(3) to (12), inclusive, applies in relation to a person who is required to produce a document or thing by a notice served under this section on him in the same manner as it applies in relation to a person who is required to produce a document or thing at a hearing before the Authority and so applies as if a reference in those subsections to section 19(2) were a reference to subsection (3) of this section.
- (5) If a person who is required by a notice served on him under this section to produce a document or thing claims to the person (in this subsection referred to as the **relevant person**) to whom the claimant is required to produce it that the claimant is entitled to refuse to produce the document or thing, the relevant person shall:
 - (a) if satisfied that the claim is justified – inform the claimant that the requirement will not be insisted upon; or
 - (b) in any other case – inform the claimant that the relevant person is not so satisfied and, if the document or thing is not produced forthwith, refer the claim to the Authority for decision under section 21.

18A Disclosure of summons or notice may be prohibited

- (1) The member issuing a summons under section 17 or a notice under section 18 shall, or may, as provided in subsection (2), include in it a notation to the effect that disclosure of information about the summons or notice, or any official matter connected with it, is

prohibited except in the circumstances, if any, specified in the notation.

- (2) A notification shall not be included in the summons or notice except as follows:
- (a) the member shall include the notation if satisfied that failure to do so would reasonably be expected to prejudice:
 - (i) the safety or reputation of a person;
 - (ii) the fair trial of a person who has been or may be charged with an offence; or
 - (iii) the effectiveness of an investigation;
 - (b) the member may include the notation if satisfied that failure to do so might prejudice:
 - (i) the safety or reputation of a person;
 - (ii) the fair trial of a person who has been or may be charged with an offence; or
 - (iii) the effectiveness of an investigation;
 - (c) the member may include the notation if satisfied that failure to do so might otherwise be contrary to the public interest.
- (3) If a notation is included in the summons or notice, it shall be accompanied by a written statement setting out the rights and obligations conferred or imposed by section 18B on the person who was served with, or otherwise given, the summons or notice.
- (4) If, after the Authority has concluded the investigation concerned:
- (a) no evidence of an offence has been obtained as described in section 6(1);
 - (b) evidence of an offence or offences has been assembled and furnished as required by section 6(1) and the Authority has been advised that no person will be prosecuted;
 - (c) evidence of an offence or offences committed by only one person has been assembled and furnished as required by section 6(1) and criminal proceedings have begun against that person;

(d) evidence of an offence or offences committed by 2 or more persons has been assembled and furnished as required by section 6(1) and:

- (i) criminal proceedings have begun against all those persons; or
- (ii) criminal proceedings have begun against one or more of those persons and the Authority has been advised that no other of those persons will be prosecuted,

all the notations that were included under this section in any summonses or notices relating to the investigation are cancelled by this subsection.

- (5) If a notation is cancelled by subsection (4), the Authority shall serve a written notice of that fact on each person who was served with, or otherwise given, the summons or notice containing the notation.
- (6) If a notation made under subsection (1) is inconsistent with a direction given under section 16(9), a notation has no effect to the extent of the inconsistency.

18B Offences of disclosure

(1) In this section:

legal aid officer means:

- (a) a member, or member of staff, of a legal aid commission within the meaning of the *Commonwealth Legal Aid Act 1977*; or
- (b) the person to whom the Commonwealth Attorney-General has delegated his or her powers and functions under section 27 of the Commonwealth Act.

official matter means:

- (a) a reference under section 13 or 14 of the Commonwealth Act;
- (b) an investigation conducted or co-ordinated by the Authority;
- (c) a hearing held by the Authority; or
- (d) court proceedings,

whether past, present or contingent.

(2) A person who is served with, or otherwise given, a summons or notice containing a notation made under section 18A shall not disclose:

- (a) the existence of the summons or notice or any information about it; or
- (b) the existence of, or any information about, any official matter connected with the summons or notice.

Penalty: \$2,000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

(3) Subsection (2) does not prevent the person from making a disclosure:

- (a) in accordance with the circumstances, if any, specified in the notation;
- (b) to a legal practitioner for the purpose of obtaining legal advice or representation relating to the summons, notice or matter;
- (c) to a legal aid officer for the purpose of obtaining assistance under section 27 of the Commonwealth Act relating to the summons, notice or matter;
- (d) if the person is a body corporate – to an officer or agent of the body corporate for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the summons or notice; or
- (e) if the person is a legal practitioner:
 - (i) for the purpose of complying with a legal duty of disclosure arising from his or her professional relationship with a client; or
 - (ii) for the purpose of obtaining the agreement of another person under section 19(3) to the legal practitioner answering a question or producing a document at a hearing before the Authority.

(4) If a disclosure is made to a person as permitted by subsection (3) or (5):

- (a) while he or she is a person of a kind to whom a disclosure is so permitted to be made, he or she shall not disclose the existence of, or any information about, the summons or notice, or any official matter connected with it, except as permitted by subsection (5); and

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- (b) while he or she is no longer such a person, he or she shall not, in any circumstances, make a record of, or disclose the existence of, the summons, notice or matter, or disclose any information about any of them.

Penalty: \$2,000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

- (5) A person to whom information has been disclosed, as permitted by subsection (3) or this subsection, may disclose that information:
- (a) if the person is an officer or agent of a body corporate referred to in subsection (3)(d):
- (i) to another officer or agent of the body corporate for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the summons or notice;
 - (ii) to a legal practitioner for the purpose of obtaining legal advice or representation relating to the summons, notice or matter; or
 - (iii) to a legal aid officer for the purpose of obtaining assistance under section 27 of the Commonwealth Act relating to the summons, notice or matter;
- (b) if the person is a legal practitioner – for the purpose of giving legal advice, making representations, or obtaining assistance under section 27 of the Commonwealth Act, relating to the summons, notice or matter; or
- (c) if the person is a legal aid officer – for the purpose of obtaining legal advice or representation relating to the summons, notice or matter.
- (6) This section ceases to apply to a summons or notice after:
- (a) the notation contained in the summons or notice is cancelled by section 18A(4); or
 - (b) 5 years elapse after the issue of the summons or notice,
- whichever is sooner.
- (7) A reference in this section to disclosing something's existence includes disclosing information from which a person could reasonably be expected to infer its existence.

19 Failure of witnesses to attend and answer questions

- (1) A person served, as prescribed, with a summons to appear as a witness at a hearing before the Authority shall not, without reasonable excuse:
- (a) fail to attend as required by the summons; or
 - (b) fail to attend from day to day unless excused, or released from further attendance, by a member.
- (2) A person appearing as a witness at a hearing before the Authority shall not, without reasonable excuse:
- (a) when required under section 17 either to take an oath or make an affirmation – refuse or fail to comply with the requirement;
 - (b) refuse or fail to answer a question that he is required to answer by the member presiding at the hearing; or
 - (c) refuse or fail to produce a document or thing that he was required by a summons under this Act served as prescribed to produce.
- (3) Where:
- (a) a legal practitioner is required to answer a question or produce a document at a hearing before the Authority; and
 - (b) the answer to the question would disclose, or the document contains, a privileged communication made by or to the legal practitioner in the capacity of a legal practitioner,
- the legal practitioner is entitled to refuse to comply with the requirement unless the person to whom or by whom the communication was made agrees to the legal practitioner complying with the requirement but, where the legal practitioner refuses to comply with the requirement, the legal practitioner shall, if so required by the member presiding at the hearing, furnish to the Authority the name and address of the person to whom or by whom the communication was made.
- (4) Subject to subsections (5), (7), (9) and (11), it is a reasonable excuse for the purposes of subsection (2) for a natural person:
- (a) to refuse or fail to answer a question put to him at a hearing before the Authority; or
 - (b) to refuse or fail to produce a document or thing that he was required to produce at a hearing before the Authority,

that the answer to the question, or the production of the document or thing, as the case may be, might tend to incriminate him.

- (5) It is not a reasonable excuse for the purposes of subsection (2) for a person:
- (a) to refuse or fail to answer a question put to him at a hearing before the Authority; or
 - (b) to refuse or fail to produce a document or thing that he was required to produce at a hearing before the Authority,

that the answer to the question or the production of the document or thing might tend to prove his guilt of an offence against a law of the Territory if the Attorney-General or the Director of Public Prosecutions has given to the first-mentioned person an undertaking in writing that any answer given or document or thing produced, as the case may be, or any information, document or thing obtained as a direct or indirect consequence of the answer or the production of the first-mentioned document or thing, will not be used in evidence in any proceedings against that person for an offence against a law of the Territory, other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of evidence given by that person, and the Attorney-General or Director of Public Prosecutions states in the undertaking:

- (c) that, in his opinion, there are special grounds that, in the public interest, require that answers be given or documents or things be produced by the first-mentioned person; and
 - (d) the general nature of those grounds.
- (6) The Authority may recommend to the Attorney-General that a person who has been or is to be served with a summons to appear as a witness at a hearing before the Authority or to produce a document or thing at a hearing before the Authority be given an undertaking in accordance with subsection (5).
- (7) It is not a reasonable excuse for the purposes of subsection (2) for a person:
- (a) to refuse or fail to answer a question put to him at a hearing before the Authority; or
 - (b) to refuse or fail to produce a document or thing that he was required to produce at a hearing before the Authority,

that the answer to the question or the production of the document or thing might tend to prove his guilt of an offence against a law of the Commonwealth or of another Territory if the Director of Public

Prosecutions of the Commonwealth has given to him an undertaking in writing that any answer given or document or thing produced, as the case may be, or any information, document or thing obtained as a direct or indirect consequence of the answer or the production of the first-mentioned document or thing, will not be used in evidence in any proceedings against the person for an offence against a law of the Commonwealth or of another Territory, other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of evidence given by the person, and the Director of Public Prosecutions states in the undertaking:

- (c) that, in his opinion, there are special grounds that, in the public interest, require that answers be given or documents or things be produced by the person; and
 - (d) the general nature of those grounds.
- (8) The Authority may recommend to the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Commonwealth that a person who has been or is to be served with a summons to appear as a witness at a hearing before the Authority or to produce a document or thing at a hearing before the Authority be given an undertaking in accordance with subsection (7).
- (9) It is not a reasonable excuse for the purposes of subsection (2) for a person:
- (a) to refuse or fail to answer a question put to him at a hearing before the Authority; or
 - (b) to refuse or fail to produce a document or thing that he was required to produce at a hearing before the Authority,

that the answer to the question or the production of a document or thing might tend to prove his guilt of an offence against a law of a State if the Attorney-General of that State, or a person authorized by him, being the person holding the office of Director of Public Prosecutions, or a similar office, of that State, has given to the first-mentioned person an undertaking in writing that any answer given or document or thing produced, as the case may be, or any information, document or thing obtained as a direct or indirect consequence of the answer or the production of the first-mentioned document or thing, will not be used in evidence in any proceedings against that person for an offence against a law of that State, other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of evidence given by that person, and the Attorney-General of that State, or the person so authorized, states in the undertaking:

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- (c) that, in his opinion, there are special grounds that, in the public interest, require that answers be given or documents or things be produced by the first-mentioned person; and
 - (d) the general nature of those grounds.
- (10) The Authority may recommend to the Attorney-General of a State that a person who has been or is to be served with a summons to appear as a witness at a hearing before the Authority or to produce a document or thing at a hearing before the Authority be given an undertaking in accordance with subsection (9).
- (11) For the purposes of subsection (2), it is not a reasonable excuse for:
- (a) a corporation to refuse or fail to produce a document or thing that the production of the document or thing might tend to incriminate the corporation; and
 - (b) a natural person to refuse or fail to produce a document that is, or forms part of, a record of an existing or past business (not being, in the case of a person who is or has been an employee, a document that sets out details of earnings received by the person in respect of the person's employment and does not set out any other information) that the production of the document might tend to incriminate the person.
- (12) Subsections (5), (7), (9) and (11) do not apply where the offence in respect of which the answer to a question or the production of a document or thing, as the case requires, might tend to incriminate a person is an offence with which the person has been charged and the charge has not been finally dealt with by a court or otherwise disposed of.
- (13) A person who contravenes subsection (1), (2) or (3) is guilty of an offence.

Penalty: \$1,000 or imprisonment for 6 months.

20 Warrant for arrest of witness

- (1) Where, on application by or on behalf of the Authority, a Judge of the Federal Court sitting in chambers or a Judge of the Supreme Court is satisfied by evidence on oath that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person:
- (a) who has been ordered, under section 15, to deliver his or her passport to the Authority, whether or not the person has complied with the order, is nevertheless likely to leave Australia for the purpose of avoiding giving evidence before

the Authority; or

- (b) in relation to whom a summons has been issued under section 17(1):
 - (i) has absconded or is likely to abscond; or
 - (ii) is otherwise attempting, or is otherwise likely to attempt, to evade service of the summons; or
- (c) that a person has committed an offence under section 19(1) or is likely to do so,

the Judge may issue a warrant for the apprehension of the person.

- (2) A warrant issued under subsection (1) may be executed by a member of the Australian Federal Police or the Police Force of the Territory or a State, or by a person to whom it is addressed, and the person executing it has power to break and enter any premises, vessel, aircraft or vehicle for the purpose of executing it.
- (2A) The warrant may be executed notwithstanding that it is not at the time in the possession of the person executing it.
- (3) Where a person is apprehended pursuant to a warrant under this section, he shall be brought, as soon as practicable, before a Judge of the Federal Court or of the Supreme Court and the Judge may:
 - (a) admit him to bail, with such security as the Judge thinks fit, on such conditions as the Judge thinks necessary to ensure his appearance as a witness before the Authority;
 - (b) order his continued detention for the purpose of ensuring his appearance as such a witness; or
 - (c) order his release.
- (4) Where a person is under detention pursuant to this section, he shall, within 14 days after he was brought, or last brought, before a Judge of the Federal Court or of the Supreme Court in accordance with this section, or within such shorter or longer time as a Judge has fixed upon the person's last previous appearance under this section before a Judge, be again brought before a Judge and the Judge may thereupon exercise any of the powers of a Judge under subsection (3).
- (5) In this section **Australia** includes the external Territories.

21 Applications to Federal Court of Australia

- (1) Where a person claims:
- (a) to be entitled to refuse to produce a document that he is required to produce pursuant to a notice under section 18; or
 - (b) to be entitled to refuse to answer a question put to him, or to produce a document that he was required to produce, at a hearing before the Authority,

the Authority shall decide, as soon as practicable, whether in its opinion the claim is justified and notify the person of its decision.

- (2) If a person referred to in subsection (1) is dissatisfied with a decision under that subsection, he may apply to the Federal Court for an order of review in respect of the decision.
- (3) Where the Authority decides that a claim by a person that the person is entitled to refuse to produce a document is not justified, the person is not entitled to make an application to the Federal Court under subsection (2) in respect of the decision unless he has produced the document to the Authority or placed the document in the custody of the Registrar of that Court, and, where he has so produced the document and makes such an application, the Authority shall cause the document to be placed in the custody of the Registrar of that Court.
- (4) On an application for an order of review in respect of a decision under subsection (1) of the Authority, the Federal Court may, in its discretion, make an order:
- (a) affirming the decision; or
 - (b) setting it aside.
- (5) Where the Federal Court makes an order under subsection (4) setting aside a decision by the Authority that a claim by a person that he was entitled to refuse to produce a document is not justified:
- (a) unless paragraph (b) applies – the Federal Court shall make a further order directing that the document be delivered to the person;
 - (b) if the Federal Court:
 - (i) makes the first-mentioned order for the reason that the person was entitled, on the ground that production of the document might tend to incriminate the person, to refuse to produce the document;

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- (ii) is satisfied that the person was not entitled on any other ground to refuse to produce the document; and
 - (iii) is satisfied that an undertaking of a kind referred to in section 19(5), (7) or (9) has, or 2 or more such undertakings have, been given to the person and that he, if now required to produce the document at a hearing before the Authority, would not be entitled to refuse so to produce it,

the Federal Court shall make a further order directing that the document be delivered to the Authority; and

- (c) if the Federal Court makes:
 - (i) the first-mentioned order for the reason that, or for reasons including the reason that, the person was entitled, on the ground that production of the document might tend to incriminate him, to refuse to produce the document; and
 - (ii) a further order directing that the document be delivered to the person,

evidence of production of the document by the person to the Authority, or of the placing of the document by the person in the custody of the Registrar of the Federal Court, as the case may be, for the purposes of the application on which the orders were made is not admissible in proceedings against the person for an offence against a law of the Territory, other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of evidence given by the person.

- (6) A prosecution for an offence against section 18(3) or 19(13) shall not be commenced in respect of a refusal or failure by a person to produce a document or answer to a question if the person has:
 - (a) claimed to be entitled to refuse to produce the document or answer the question, as the case may be, and the Authority decides that, in its opinion, the claim is not justified – until the expiration of 5 days (excluding days on which the Registry of the Federal Court is closed) immediately after the relevant day in relation to the decision; or
 - (b) made an application under subsection (2) to the Federal Court for an order of review in respect of a decision by the Authority that, in its opinion, a claim by him to be entitled to refuse to produce the document or answer the question is not justified – until the application, and any appeal from an order made by the Federal Court on the application, have been determined or

otherwise disposed of.

- (7) An order under subsection (4) of the Federal Court is, subject to an appeal from that order, conclusive for the purposes of any other proceedings.
- (8) Where a person who is required to produce a document pursuant to a notice under section 18, or is required to produce a document at a hearing before the Authority, claims that:
- (a) the document contains:
 - (i) particular matter (in this subsection referred to as the **relevant matter**) relating to his personal affairs, not being matter relating to the activities of an existing or past business; or
 - (ii) in the case of a person who is or has been an employee – particular matter (in this subsection also referred to as the **relevant matter**), being details of earnings received by him in respect of his employment; and
 - (b) he would, if the document had contained only the relevant matter, have been entitled, on the ground that production of the document might tend to incriminate him, to refuse so to produce the document,

he may, whether or not he has made an application under subsection (2) to the Federal Court in respect of a decision by the Authority in relation to the document, make an application to that Court for an order under this subsection and, if such an application is made and the document is produced to that Court, then, subject to subsection (5)(a), that Court:

- (c) if it is satisfied that the claim is justified – may, subject to paragraph (d), make such order as it thinks fit for the excision or concealment of the part of the document that contains the relevant matter and shall, if it makes such an order, make a further order directing that the document be delivered to the Authority after the first-mentioned order has been complied with;
- (d) if it is satisfied that an undertaking of a kind referred to in section 19(5), (7) or (9) has, or 2 or more such undertakings have, been given to the person and that he would not, if the document contained only the relevant matter and he were now required to produce the document to the Authority, be entitled, on the ground that production of the document might tend to incriminate him, to refuse to so produce it – shall make an

order directing that the document be delivered to the Authority;
and

(e) if paragraph (d) does not apply and that Court does not make an order of the kind first referred to in paragraph (c) – shall make an order directing that the document be delivered to the Authority.

(9) A person is not entitled to make an application under subsection (8) in relation to a document unless he has, on the day on which the document was to be produced to the Authority or on such later day as a member (whether on or after the first-mentioned day) allows, given to the Authority a notice in writing stating that he proposes to make an application for an excision or concealment order in relation to the document.

(10) A person is not entitled to make an application under subsection (8) to the Federal Court in relation to a document unless he has produced the document to the Authority or placed the document in the custody of the Registrar of that Court, and, where he has so produced the document and makes such an application, the Authority shall cause the document to be placed in the custody of the Registrar of that Court.

(11) Where:

(a) a person makes a claim as mentioned in subsection (8) in relation to a particular matter (in this subsection referred to as the **relevant matter**) contained in a document; and

(b) the Federal Court, being satisfied that the claim is justified, makes in relation to the document an order of the kind first referred to in subsection (8)(c),

evidence of production of the document by him to the Authority, or of the placing of the document by him in the custody of the Registrar of that Court, as the case may be, for the purposes of the application on which the order is made is, in so far as the document contains the relevant matter, not admissible in any proceedings against him for an offence against a law of the Territory, other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of evidence given by him.

(12) A prosecution for an offence against section 18(3) or 19(13) shall not be commenced in respect of a refusal or failure by a person to produce a document:

(a) if he has given to the Authority in accordance with subsection (9) a notice relating to the document – until the expiration of 5 days (excluding days on which the Registry of the Federal Court is closed) immediately after the relevant day

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- in relation to the notice; or
- (b) if he has made an application under subsection (8) in relation to the document – until the application, and any appeal from an order made by the Federal Court on the application, have been determined or otherwise disposed of.
- (13) An application under subsection (2) or (8) to the Federal Court shall:
- (a) be made in such manner as is prescribed by Rules of Court made under the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* of the Commonwealth;
- (b) set out the grounds of the application; and
- (c) be lodged with a Registry of the Federal Court within 5 days (excluding days on which the Registry is closed) immediately after:
- (i) in the case of an application under subsection (2) – the relevant day in relation to the decision to which the application relates; or
- (ii) in the case of an application under subsection (8) – the relevant day in relation to the notice given in accordance with subsection (9) in relation to the application,
- or within such further period as that Court (whether before or after the expiration of the first-mentioned period) allows.
- (14) The Federal Court has jurisdiction with respect to matters arising under this section.
- (15) In this section, unless the contrary intention appears:

document includes a thing.

prescribed notice means a notice stating as mentioned in section 22(2)(c).

relevant day means:

- (a) in relation to a decision under subsection (1) of the Authority – the day on which the Authority gives to the person to whom the decision relates a prescribed notice relating to the decision; or

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- (b) in relation to a notice given in accordance with subsection (9) by a person – the day on which the Authority gives to the person a prescribed notice relating to the notice so given by him.
 - (16) Where a decision of the Authority under subsection (1) relates to 2 or more questions, or to 2 or more documents, the decision shall, to the extent to which it relates to a particular question or document, be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to constitute a separate decision relating to that question or document only.
 - (17) Where a person gives to the Authority in accordance with subsection (9) a notice relating to 2 or more documents, the notice shall, to the extent to which it relates to a particular document, be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to constitute a separate notice relating to that document only.

22 Applications to Supreme Court of State

- (1) Where:
 - (a) a person is required:
 - (i) to answer a question, or to produce a document, at a hearing before the Authority; or
 - (ii) to produce a document pursuant to a notice under section 18;
 - (b) the Authority, at a particular time (in this subsection referred to as **relevant time**):
 - (i) decides under section 21(1) that a claim by the person to be entitled to refuse to answer the question, or to produce the document, as the case may be, is not justified; or
 - (ii) in a case where the person is required to produce a document – receives from the person a notice given in accordance with section 21(9) relating to the document; and
 - (c) the Authority, at the relevant time:
 - (i) in a case where paragraph (a)(i) applies – is holding the hearing for the purposes of a special investigation, or of 2 or more special investigations; or

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- (ii) in a case where paragraph (a)(ii) applies – considers the document to be relevant to a special investigation, or to 2 or more special investigations,

then, for the purposes of this section:

- (d) if a reference to the Authority made by the Commonwealth Minister is at the relevant time in force in respect of a matter to which the special investigation, or any of the special investigations, relates – prescribed circumstances shall be taken not to apply;
- (e) if a reference to the Authority made by a Minister of the Crown of a State is at the relevant time in force in respect of a matter to which the special investigation, or any of the special investigations, relates and a reference to the Authority made by a Minister of the Crown of another State is at the relevant time in force in respect of such a matter – prescribed circumstances shall be taken not to apply; or
- (f) if a reference to the Authority made by a Minister of the Crown of a State is at the relevant time in force in respect of a matter to which the special investigation, or any of the special investigations, relates and neither paragraph (d) or (e) applies – prescribed circumstances shall be taken to apply, in relation to the last-mentioned State,

in relation to the decision of the Authority, or in relation to the notice given by the person in accordance with section 21(9), as the case may be.

(2) Where the Authority:

- (a) decides under section 21(1) that a claim by a person to be entitled to refuse to answer a question, or to produce a document, is not justified; or
- (b) receives from a person a notice given in accordance with section 21(9),

the Authority shall give to the person a notice:

- (c) stating that prescribed circumstances:
 - (i) do not apply; or
 - (ii) apply in relation to a specified State,

as the case requires, in relation to the decision of the Authority, or in relation to the notice given by the person in accordance with section 21(9), as the case may be; and

(d) stating:

- (i) in a case where paragraph (c)(i) applies – that the effect of prescribed circumstances not so applying is that the Federal Court has jurisdiction; or
- (ii) in the case where paragraph (c)(ii) applies – that the effect of prescribed circumstances so applying in relation to the State is that the Supreme Court of that State has jurisdiction,

with respect to:

- (iii) an application for an order of review in respect of the decision of the Authority; or
- (iv) an application in relation to the claim to which the notice given by the person in accordance with section 21(9) relates,

as the case may be,

but failure of a notice to state as mentioned in paragraph (d) does not affect the validity of the notice.

- (3) A notice that is given by the Authority to a person and that states as mentioned in subsection (2)(c) is prima facie evidence of the matter so stated.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5), where prescribed circumstances apply, in relation to the Territory, in relation to:
 - (a) a decision of the Authority under section 21(1); or
 - (b) a notice given in accordance with section 21(9),

section 21 has effect in relation to the decision, or in relation to the claim to which the notice relates, as the case may be, subject to the following modifications:

- (c) a reference in section 21 to the Federal Court shall be taken to be a reference to the Supreme Court;
- (d) a reference in section 21 to the Registrar of the Federal Court shall be taken to be a reference to the Master of the Supreme Court;

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- (e) a reference in section 21 to a Registry of the Federal Court shall be taken to be a reference to a Registry of the Supreme Court; and
 - (f) the words "made under the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* of the Commonwealth" shall be deemed to be omitted from section 21(13)(a).
- (5) Where an application is made to the Supreme Court under section 21 as that section has effect by virtue of subsection (4) of this section and it appears to that Court that it would be more appropriate for the application to be heard and determined by the Federal Court, the Supreme Court may transfer the application to the Federal Court and, upon an application being so transferred:
- (a) the modifications of section 21 mentioned in subsection (4) of this section cease to have effect in relation to the application;
 - (b) the Federal Court may hear and determine the application as if the application had been duly made under section 21 to the Federal Court; and
 - (c) if a document has been placed in the custody of the Master of the Supreme Court for the purposes of the application:
 - (i) the Master of the Supreme Court shall send the document to the Registrar of the Federal Court; and
 - (ii) section 21(5)(c) or (11), as the case requires, applies in relation to the application as if the reference to the placing of the document in the custody of the Registrar of the Federal Court were a reference to the placing of the document in the custody of the Master of the Supreme Court.
- (6) The Supreme Court has jurisdiction with respect to matters arising under section 21 in respect of which an application has been duly made to that Court under that section as if it has effect by virtue of subsection (4) of this section.
- (7) The Federal Court has jurisdiction with respect to matters arising under section 21 in respect of which an application has been duly transferred to that Court under this section.
- (8) In this section, unless the contrary intention appears:

document includes a thing.

special investigation means an investigation conducted by the Authority in relation to a matter in respect of which a reference

made under the Commonwealth Act by the Commonwealth Minister, or under an Act of a State by a Minister of the Crown of that State, is in force.

23 False or misleading evidence

- (1) A person shall not, at a hearing before the Authority, give evidence that is, to the knowledge of the person, false or misleading in a material particular.
- (2) A contravention of subsection (1) is a crime and, subject to this section, is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years.
- (3) Notwithstanding that an offence against subsection (1) is a crime, a court of summary jurisdiction may hear and determine proceedings in respect of such an offence if it is satisfied that it is proper to do so and the defendant and the prosecutor consent.
- (4) Where, in accordance with subsection (3), a court of summary jurisdiction finds a person guilty of an offence against subsection (1), the penalty that it may impose is a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months.

24 Protection of witnesses, &c.

Where it appears to a member that, by reason of the fact that a person:

- (a) is to appear, is appearing or has appeared at a hearing before the Authority to give evidence or to produce a document or thing; or
- (b) proposes to produce or has produced a document or thing to the Authority pursuant to this Act otherwise than at a hearing before the Authority,

the safety of the person may be prejudiced or the person may be subjected to intimidation or harassment, the member may make such arrangements (including arrangements with the Minister or with members of the Police Force of the Territory) as are necessary to avoid prejudice to the safety of the person, or to protect the person from intimidation or harassment.

25 Contempt of Authority

A person shall not:

- (a) obstruct or hinder the Authority or a member in the performance of the special functions of the Authority; or
- (b) disrupt a hearing before the Authority.

Penalty: \$2,000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

26 Double jeopardy

Where an act or omission by a person is an offence against this Act and is also an offence against the Commonwealth Act, the person may be prosecuted and found guilty under this Act in respect of that Act or omission notwithstanding that he has been or is being prosecuted, or has been found guilty, in respect of that act or omission under the Commonwealth Act, but nothing in this Act renders a person liable to be punished twice in respect of the same act or omission.

27 Powers of acting members of Authority

- (1) While a person is acting as Chairperson, he has, and may exercise, all the powers, and shall perform all the functions, of the Chairperson under this Act.
- (2) While a person is acting as a member, he has, and may exercise, all the powers, and shall perform all the functions, of a member under this Act.
- (3) The validity of anything done by or in relation to a person purporting to act as Chairperson or as a member shall not be called in question on the ground that the occasion for his appointment had not arisen, that there is a defect or irregularity in or in connection with that appointment, that that appointment had ceased to have effect or that the occasion for him to act had not arisen or had passed.

28 Administrative arrangements with Commonwealth

The Minister may make an arrangement with the Commonwealth Minister under which the Territory will, from time to time as agreed upon under the arrangement:

- (a) make available a person who is the holder of a judicial or other office, or persons who are the holders of judicial or other offices, of the Territory to hold office as a member or members; or

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- (b) make available a person who is an officer or employee of the Territory or of an authority of the Territory or a member of the Police Force of the Territory, or persons who are such officers, employees or members, to perform services for the Authority,

or both.

29 Protection of members, &c.

- (1) A member has, in the performance of functions, or the exercise of powers, as a member in relation to a hearing before the Authority, the same protection and immunity as a Justice of the High Court.
- (2) A legal practitioner assisting the Authority or representing a person at a hearing before the Authority has the same protection and immunity as a barrister has in appearing for a party in proceedings in the High Court.
- (3) Subject to this Act, a person summoned to attend or appearing before the Authority as a witness has the same protection as a witness in proceedings in the High Court.

30 Appointment of Judge as member not to affect tenure, &c.

The appointment of a Judge as a member, or service by the Judge as a member, does not affect the Judge's tenure of that judicial office or his rank, title, status, precedence, salary, annual or other allowances or other rights or privileges as a Judge and, for all purposes, the Judge's service as a member shall be taken to be service as a Judge.

31 Secrecy

- (1) This section applies to:
- (a) a member; and
- (b) a member of the staff of the Authority.
- (2) A person to whom this section applies who, either directly or indirectly, except for the purposes of a relevant Act or otherwise in connection with the performance of his duties under a relevant Act, and either while he is or after he ceases to be a person to whom this section applies:
- (a) makes a record of any information; or
- (b) divulges or communicates to any person any information,

being information acquired by him by reason of, or in the course of, the performance of his duties under this Act, is guilty of a simple offence.

Penalty: \$5,000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

- (3) A person to whom this section applies shall not be required to produce in any court a document that has come into his custody or control in the course of, or by reason of, the performance of duties under this Act, or to divulge or communicate to a court a matter or thing that has come to his notice in the performance of duties under this Act, except where the Authority, or a member in the member's official capacity, is a party to the relevant proceedings or it is necessary to do so:
- (a) for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of a relevant Act; or
 - (b) for the purposes of a prosecution instituted as a result of an investigation carried out by the Authority in the performance of its functions.
- (4) In this section:

court includes a tribunal, authority or person having power to require the production of documents or the answering of questions.

member of the staff of the Authority means a person:

- (a) referred to in the definition of **member of the staff of the Authority** in subsection 4(1) of the Commonwealth Act; or
- (b) who assists, or performs services for or on behalf of, a legal practitioner appointed under section 50 of the Commonwealth Act in the performance of the legal practitioner's duties as counsel to the Authority.

produce includes permit access to.

relevant Act means the Commonwealth Act, this Act or a corresponding Act of a State.

32 Report to be laid before Assembly

The Minister shall cause a copy of:

- (a) each annual report of the Authority that is received by him; and

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- (b) any comments made on the report by the Inter-Governmental Committee, being comments that accompanied the report,

to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 15 sitting days of the Assembly after the report is received by him.

33 Regulations

The Administrator may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing matters:

- (a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; or
- (b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

ENDNOTES
1**KEY**

Key to abbreviations

amd = amended
app = appendix
bl = by-law
ch = Chapter
cl = clause
div = Division
exp = expires/expired
f = forms
Gaz = Gazette
hdg = heading
ins = inserted
lt = long title
nc = not commenced

od = order
om = omitted
pt = Part
r = regulation/rule
rem = remainder
renum = renumbered
rep = repealed
s = section
sch = Schedule
sdiv = Subdivision
SL = Subordinate Legislation
sub = substituted

2**LIST OF LEGISLATION*****National Crime Authority (Territory Provisions) Act 1985 (Act No. 20, 1985)***

Assent date 24 May 1985
 Commenced 3 July 1985 (*Gaz* G26, 3 July 1985, p 5)

National Crime Authority (Territory Provisions) Amendment Act 1989 (Act No. 22, 1989)

Assent date 15 June 1989
 Commenced 15 June 1989

Director of Public Prosecutions (Consequential Amendments) Act 1990 (Act No. 29, 1990)

Assent date 11 June 1990
 Commenced 21 January 1991 (s 2, s 2 *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1990* (Act No. 35, 1990) and *Gaz* G2, 16 January 1991, p 9)

Statute Law Revision Act 1991 (Act No. 31, 1991)

Assent date 25 June 1991
 Commenced 25 June 1991

National Crime Authority (Territory Provisions) Amendment Act 1994 (Act No. 29, 1994)

Assent date 18 May 1994
 Commenced 1 June 1995 (*Gaz* S21, 1 June 1995)

Sentencing (Consequential Amendments) Act 1996 (Act No. 17, 1996)

Assent date 19 April 1996
 Commenced 1 July 1996 (s 2, s 2 *Sentencing Act 1995* (Act No. 39, 1995) and *Gaz* S15, 13 June 1996)

3**LIST OF AMENDMENTS**

s 5	amd No. 29, 1994, s 4
s 6	amd No. 29, 1994, s 5
s 9	amd No. 29, 1994, s 6
ss 12 – 13	amd No. 29, 1994, s 10
s 15	amd No. 29, 1994, s 10
s 16	amd No. 22, 1989, s 3; No. 29, 1994, ss 7 and 10
ss 17 –	amd No. 29, 1994, s 10
ss 18A – 18B	ins No. 29, 1994, s 8
s 19	amd No. 31, 1991, s 14; No. 29, 1994, s 10
s 20	amd No. 22, 1989, s 4 No. 29, 1994, ss 9 and 10
s 21	amd No. 29, 1994, s 10
s 23	amd No. 17, 1996, s 6
ss 24 – 25	amd No. 29, 1994, s 10
s 26	amd No. 17, 1996, s 6
s 27	amd No. 29, 1994, s 10
ss 29 – 30	amd No. 29, 1994, s 10
s 31	amd No. 22, 1989, s 5; No. 29, 1994, s 10
s 34	rep No. 22, 1989, s 6