

MEDIA RELEASE

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See it, Hear it, Report it! **New *Airport Watch* program launched at Canberra Airport**

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) welcomes the roll out of the national *Airport Watch* initiative, which officially started in Canberra today.

Developed by the federal Department of Transport in partnership with the AFP as part of the Government's preventative security regime, the initiative is based on the well-known community program *Neighbourhood Watch*, and encourages people working at, or travelling through Australian airports to report suspicious behaviour to authorities.

AFP Canberra Airport Police Commander Andrew Clarke said the *Airport Watch* program will provide an enhanced mechanism for our aviation partners and members of the public to report suspicious activity in or around Canberra Airport.

"This program will reduce the likelihood of serious crimes happening at our airport and enhance our ability to assess, respond and resolve any incidents, should they occur", Superintendent Clarke said.

"Safety and security is critical to the day-to-day operations of Canberra Airport. We welcome and support this initiative by the AFP which strengthens our current security measures at the airport", Canberra Airport Managing Director Stephen Byron said.

The AFP operates at Australia's 10 major airports and provides a first-response capability to potential terrorist attacks, delivering an immediate policing response to crime and disorder incidents, and investigating serious and organised crime.

Airport Watch complements the AFP's existing capabilities, which include community policing and counter-terrorist first response capability, air security officers, joint intelligence teams and joint investigation teams, bomb appraisal officers and firearms and explosive detection canines.

The *Airport Watch* call to action is *See it, Hear it, Report it*. The AFP requests that if members of the Aviation community see something unusual or notice any suspicious behaviour or hear a threatening or unusual conversation, they contact the AFP by dialling 131 AFP.

More information on Airport Watch can be found here
<http://www.afp.gov.au/policing/aviation/airport-watch.aspx>.

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