



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**
Office of the Director General

Our Ref: DD1802930

Your Ref: A687304

Mr P.A. Katsambanis, MLA
Chairman
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Mr Katsambanis

I refer to your letter of 16 May 2018 requesting information about grants to the Western Australian Government as part of the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) Program over the past five years. I understand that you have written to the Commissioner of Police in similar terms, and I am responding on behalf of both of us.

As you have noted, the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Australia's National Counter-Terrorism Arrangements* (IGA) sets out agreed financial arrangements underpinning the development of Australia's counter-terrorism capability. These provide for a special fund administered by the Commonwealth, in addition to capabilities funded by the States, Territories and Commonwealth Governments for their own agencies.

The ANZCTC Special Fund supports a program of training, development and counter-terrorism exercises, the purchase of specialist counter-terrorism equipment, and forums, workshops and meetings which support the development of national policy and capabilities. This program covers the spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in relation to terrorism.

I understand that the Special Fund does not operate as a grant program. In 2017-18, the Commonwealth government appropriated \$14.596m for the purposes of the Special Fund.

While Western Australian agencies (chiefly the Western Australia Police Force) benefit from the Special Fund in a number of ways, it would be difficult to identify the specific value of the benefit. For example, Western Australia benefits from participants attending training, exercises, policy workshops and meetings either partially or wholly supported by the Special Fund. Over the five year period for which you have sought information, this could amount to a significant number of participants.

Equipment purchases supported by the Special Fund may be made centrally or managed by one State or Territory on behalf of others for more efficient contracting and purchasing processes. Some of that expenditure is on equipment or capabilities that cannot be publicly disclosed.

The Special Fund also supports specific projects that may be managed by one jurisdiction for national benefit, such as research, counter-terrorism exercises or pilot projects. In those cases funds may be remitted to a State or Territory to manage, with the funds expended on specialist research consultants or inter-jurisdictional participation in the project.

Accordingly, I am advised that it is not practicable to identify the amount received by the Western Australian Government over the past five years from the ANZCTC Special Fund and what it was used for. I note that in addition to support provided through the Special Fund, the Commonwealth also contributes to counter-terrorism nationally, including in Western Australia, through joint policing activities, measures aimed at countering violent extremism and more generally in support of key national security and emergency management arrangements.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Foster', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren Foster
DIRECTOR GENERAL

6 JUN 2018