

## Investigations

### ILLCIT DRUGS

During 2011–12 AFP investigations led to the seizure of 14 838.4 kilograms of illicit drugs. This was a significant increase over the previous financial year when 5297.62 kilograms of illicit substances were seized.

#### Operational highlights

- **Operation Paradigm** resulted in the seizure of approximately 271 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of approximately \$200 million. Three men were arrested.
- **Operation Zanella–Avalon** resulted in the seizure from a yacht in Bundaberg of 300 kilograms of cocaine originating in Vanuatu and destined for the Australian market. The cocaine had an approximate value of \$78 million and as a result of the investigation four people were arrested and over \$3.9 million in assets were restrained.
- **Operation Manzanita** was a joint operation between the AFP and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service resulting in the seizure of 104 kilograms of heroin and 117 kilograms of pseudoephedrine and the arrest of one suspect. Intelligence derived from this operation resulted in an internally generated investigation into a syndicate involved in further importations of border-controlled drugs.

- **Operation Castleford** resulted in the arrest of five people for the importation of 20 kilograms of border-controlled drugs (MDMA, methamphetamine and cocaine). The men had attempted to import the drugs into Australia from Canada, concealed within a commercial oven steel trolley frame.

### PROCEEDS OF CRIME

#### Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce

The Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce has been established to provide a coordinated and integrated approach to Commonwealth criminal asset confiscation and focuses on taking the profit out of crime. The taskforce is led and hosted by the AFP and includes the Australian Crime Commission and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The permanent taskforce commenced in January 2012 and has investigation and litigation teams in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Canberra.

The taskforce investigates and litigates conviction-based and non-conviction-based proceeds of crime matters. To enable this, the government brought forward amendments to the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* that empower the AFP to commence and conduct Proceeds of Crime Act litigation. These amendments received royal assent on 5 December 2011 and the provisions commenced on 1 January 2012.

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TABLE 5: COMPARATIVE DRUG SEIZURE DATA

Drug group reported	2010–11 FINANCIAL YEAR		2011–12 FINANCIAL YEAR	
	Seizure count	Weight (kg)	Seizure count	Weight (kg)
Amphetamine & ATS	934	404.5	1 144	601.9
Cannabis	1 127	46.2	2 069	16.0
Cocaine	526	795.9	573	966.0
Heroin (opioids)	311	582.9	233	390.2
MDMA	132	11.4	531	11.9
Precursor	38	3275.5	90	12 105.9
Sedatives	62	63.2	80	143.2
Hallucinogen	46	7.4	84	11.7
Other	586	110.7	1 213	591.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 762</b>	<b>5 297.6</b>	<b>6 017</b>	<b>14 838.4</b>