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*witness  
protection*

This year evidence provided by people under the witness protection program helped secure convictions against people guilty of the most serious crimes.

# Witness protection

The CCC protects witnesses who are under threat as a result of assisting a law enforcement agency. Witnesses include victims of crime, innocent bystanders to crime, and people who possess information about criminal or corrupt activity, generally because they are themselves associated with crime or corruption. Protection can also extend to members of the witness' family.

The witness protection program provides an environment in which participants are able to give evidence in criminal trials without fear of retribution.

By legislation, entry into the witness protection program is voluntary, so individuals assessed by the program decide whether or not to accept an offer of protection.

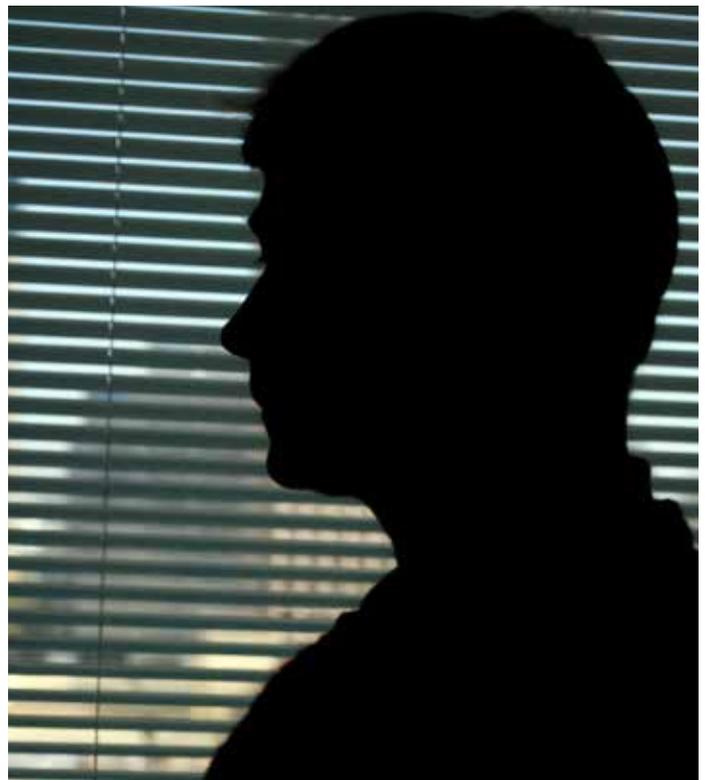
Queensland is the only Australian jurisdiction where the witness protection function resides within an anti-corruption body; elsewhere it sits within the relevant police service. The CCC's Witness Protection Unit maintains close relationships with interstate counterparts to assist in addressing cross-jurisdictional issues, enabling interoperability, maintaining consistent high standards and developing operational capability through intelligence-building networks.

Depending on the circumstances, there is a range of protective measures available, which includes immediate, short-term measures that allow CCC officers to respond quickly to potential threats. It is our commitment that interim protection can be provided within 44 hours to any eligible applicant whatever their location within Australia. A variety of methodologies are employed to ensure the safety of people included in the program, which in some circumstances may include long-term measures involving significant changes to the witness' lifestyle.

This year, 93 applications for protection were received. All interim applications were assessed within 23 hours (exceeding our target of 44 hours) and appropriate assistance offered. Of the individuals offered protection, 44 people accepted the offer and entered the program.

All protected people were kept safe and this has contributed to the dismantling of organised crime networks and the convictions of persons guilty of the most serious crimes.

The CCC regularly provides presentations to client agencies, principally the QPS and its Detective Training program. These information sessions are designed to provide an awareness among investigators on how to access the services offered by the Witness Protection Unit, and what the program entails.





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Since its inception in 1987, more than 1800 individuals who were under threat have been kept safe, representing a 100 per cent success rate for the program.

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