

2 May 2008

CrimTrac ICT system nominated for two national awards

CrimTrac – the agency responsible for developing information technologies to support law enforcement – has been nominated for a second national award in two weeks to recognise innovative ICT solutions.

Today, CrimTrac was selected as a finalist for the 2008 e-Awards for Excellence in e-Government for the National Police Reference System (NPRS), an electronic program that enables police and law enforcement agencies to exchange information about people across all jurisdictions.

Last month, the same system won the AIIA's ACT iAward for best innovative system to support electronic government initiatives and service delivery to the community.

CrimTrac's NPRS will now be considered for a national iAward and a national e-Award, both of which will be announced later this month.

CrimTrac CEO, Ben McDevitt says the agency's achievements so far are confirmation that the National Police Reference System is among the most sophisticated ICT developments in the country and the world.

"NPRS provides information critical to the day to day duties of community policing. It supports police with richer data on persons of interest than was available previously using other systems," Mr McDevitt said.

"Traditionally, police have maintained information within jurisdictional boundaries using disparate systems. However, having a system that transcends jurisdictional borders will address the problem of offenders moving interstate to avoid detection.

"This system effectively brokers information about persons of interest among Australian police jurisdictions. And by the time it's rolled out across the country in early 2009, all 50,000 police officers will have access to it, making their jobs much faster.

"It will allow police and law enforcement agencies in different jurisdictions to exchange information, enabling them to access national information about people in order to assist them in identifying whether they are a threat to the public, of interest to police or wanted by police."

Winners of the e-Awards will be announced at the CeBIT ICT Celebration Dinner in Sydney on 21 May 2008 and winners of the iAwards will be revealed on 28 May.

ENDS