



TASK FORCE

ELIGO

AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION | AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE | AUSTRAC

CASE STUDY: Consistently inconsistent

A criminal syndicate came to the attention of AUSTRAC after a reporting entity submitted a suspicious matter report detailing the financial activities of the group.

Within the report, several grounds of suspicion were recorded, including:

- The three suspects sent identical amounts of AUD2000 in four transactions to four beneficiaries in the same city in Colombia, claiming the funds transfers were 'gifts'.
- A fourth individual accompanied the three suspects as they made their international funds transfers, and they appeared to be acting under the guidance of that individual.
- Each of the three suspects gave their occupation as 'labourer', although this seemed inconsistent with their age and appearance.

AUSTRAC staff analysed financial transaction reports submitted by reporting entities that were linked to the criminal syndicate and identified:

- 577 outgoing international funds transfer instructions to Colombia, Argentina and Chile totalling more than AUD1.3 million.
- 129 incoming international funds transfer instructions, including from Colombia and Chile, totalling more than AUD393 000.
- 31 significant cash transaction reports for withdrawals totalling more than AUD435 000.
- 11 significant cash transaction reports for cash deposits totalling more than AUD185 000.

One of the suspects was also found to be using aliases.

All transactions were made via remittance services.

Authorities believe the funds sent to South America were used to purchase cocaine for import into Australia via the postal system.

Law enforcement authorities intercepted a package at an Australian mail centre. The package from South America contained cocaine hidden inside artwork. The cocaine had an estimated street value of AUD70 000.

The investigation traced the package to the three suspects. Following the execution of search warrants, the suspects were charged with possessing, trafficking and importing dangerous drugs. The suspects were convicted and sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

Indicators

- Customer explanation of 'reason for transfer' inconsistent with the particulars of the transaction and the customer's profile.
- Customer undertaking transactions that appears inconsistent with their profile.
- High value international funds transfer instructions being sent to individuals rather than an overseas business contact.
- Multiple customers simultaneously conducting international funds transfers to the same destination city and country.
- Multiple customers simultaneously conducting international funds transfers under the guidance or instruction of another individual.
- Multiple international funds transfers to a high-risk country.

For more information see the typologies and case studies reports available at www.austrac.gov.au/typologies.html.

