

KEEPING AUSTRALIA SAFE

Six-part series starts Tuesday, 7 November at 8.30pm on ABC & ABC iview

Keeping Australia Safe is arguably the most ambitious observational documentary series ever undertaken in Australia. More than 24 government and private institutions granted privileged access for cameras to record their operations over the same 48-hour period. The entire 6-part series was shot in 2 days – revealing what it takes to protect our national and personal security while asking the central question: “What are the real costs?”

While we’re at work, at school or living out the Australian lifestyle who is watching our backs? How real are the threats that we read about every day? Is the sophistication of crime in 2017 matched by the sophistication of policing? With ‘cybercrime’ and ‘terrorism’ on the lips of politicians and police spokespeople, what is the changing face of security in 2017?

\$35 billion from the Federal Budget is committed to defence. Hundreds of millions of dollars goes to law and order. But does perception match reality? Are the national, state and community resources being directed at real threats or is the ‘hype’ overshadowing our awareness and understanding of what it really takes to keep Australia safe?

The series explores what it takes, on a daily basis, to protect our nation as well as our personal safety, through first person storytelling by those on the frontline of the **state police, the Australian Federal Police, the army, navy, air force, Australian Border Force, corrections, the courts and community groups** working within crime prevention or offender rehabilitation. Our cameras are there as these people face real challenges hour on hour, over one continuous 48-hour period.

There are four different and vastly contrasting subjects dealt with in each of the six one-hour episodes. These stories might range from a frontline military operation in Afghanistan, to the plight of a mother trying to keep her drug-recovering son out of jail or a day in the life of a husband/wife police team in remote Western Australia.

From those trying to find beds for victims of domestic abuse, to an insider’s view of the National Security Hotline (where Australians phone in tip-offs about suspicious behaviour) as well as the daily dilemmas faced by a magistrate in the Northern Territory’s Youth Justice Court (amid a Royal Commission into juvenile detention).

This landmark series shows, first hand, the work and intelligence that goes into protecting everyone from at-risk youths and the homeless, to sporting crowd on a Friday night. And it raises questions about where our money is being committed, where the hidden problems are, and whether our protection against (and vigilance for) terrorism on home soil is based on fact or fear.

The series will seek to answer: **Is Australia safe? Do we feel safe? Are the threats we face real or perceived? Are we putting the right resources into the right areas? And what is the cost, other than money, of keeping Australia safe?**

Interview requests & publicity Information:

For further information, Bridget Stenhouse at ABC TV Publicity
Telephone (02) 8333 3847 or Email stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au
Images are available from abc.net.au/tvpublicity



KEEPING AUSTRALIA SAFE

Did you know?

- approximately **150** deaths per year from domestic violence
- **15** deaths (430 hospitalisations) per day from alcohol
- **25-35** Australian foreign fighters killed fighting in Syria and Iraq conflicts
- **3 out of 4 Australians** believe a large-scale terrorist attack is likely in Australia
- **3 Australians** have been killed through acts of terror inside this country since September 11, 2001
- The Government is currently investigating approximately **230 Australians** who are either fighting or supporting extremist groups. 140 live in Australia
- Islamophobia – **70% of Australians** polled have a very low level of Islamophobia. 20% are undecided. 10% are highly Islamophobic
- Several polls show that women are more worried about a potential terror attack than men
- The 2002 Bali Bombing remains the largest single act of terrorism to directly affect Australians (202 killed, including **88 Australians**)
- Since 9/11 (2001) there have been **35 prosecutions** in Australia for terrorist activities (26 convictions)
- Australia spends more than **\$3billion** a year on non-Defence national security. That's **at \$8.5million a day**
- On average, (at least) **one woman a week** is killed by a partner or former partner in Australia.
- **20% of Australian women** have experienced sexual violence.
- **8 out of 10 Australian women** were harassed on the street last year
- **\$20+billion per year** – the combined health, administration, and social welfare costs of violence against women
- **\$36+billion per year** – the Australia Defence Budget
- **Every 2 minutes** police are called out to a domestic violence incident
- **200%** - the increase in arrests involving amphetamines, in the past decade
- currently **268,000** regular and dependent ice users in Australia
- **50%** of ice users have committed a violent crime in the past year
- **1 in 5** Australian children (8-17 years old) is affected by cyber-bullying
- **10.4 million Australians** (56% of the population aged 15 years old or over) experienced a personal fraud scam in 2014/15
- **1.1 million Australians** experienced credit card fraud
- **126,300** the number of Australians who fall victim to identity theft every year
- The national cost of personal frauds in 2014/15 was **\$2.1 billion**
- **\$100,000 per year** – the cost of keeping a male prisoner in gaol. **\$115,000 per year** – the cost of keeping a female in gaol
- The Australian Federal Police gets **30 referrals per day** for incidents of child exploitation (porn, online abuse etc.)
- Every **9 minutes** a web page is viewed showing a child being sexually abused. At least **750,000** child predators are active online.
- **100,000** people are homeless in Australia. That's roughly the population of Launceston, Tasmania
- The fastest growing sector for homelessness is women over 55 (many have suffered physical or psychological violence from one or more of their own children)
- **1500** - the number of tip-offs the National Security Hotline receives every month. There is no published data about how many lead to arrest and conviction

EPISODE 1

Screening Tuesday, 7 November at 8.30pm on ABC & ABC iview

If we could capture a snapshot of what it takes to keep Australians safe, how would that look? And how would we feel about the real costs, to the economy, and the costs to our way of living. What does it say about us? This entire series was shot over a single 48-hour period with privileged access to those entrusted with our national and personal security. Where is Australia placing its resources and focus to keep its citizens safe? In Kabul, an Australian Army private is on high alert for possible attack by rogue Afghan soldiers. In Canberra, federal police prepare to show an age progressed picture of a missing boy to his father (four years after his mother left the country with him). At the Brisbane Watch House, an abusive and violent female offender tries to kick her way out of a rarely used padded cell. Street police in Perth comb the notorious party precinct.

GUARDIAN ANGELS (Kabul, Afghanistan)

The Guardian Angels unit was formed after a surge of insider attacks from Afghans working with coalition forces, including one attack in 2012 where three Australian soldiers were shot dead. As one of the GAs, Army Private Nathanael Bull goes to work with his automatic weapon always at the ready. If something happens, it will happen without warning. He is constantly on alert for possible attack from rogue Afghan soldiers. Private Bull protects the Australian Army mentors who advise and assist Afghan forces to be self-sufficient. It's a job that requires a unique mix of skill, diplomacy and situational awareness. Afghanistan remains Australia's longest standing involvement in war, with no signs of it ending. How is Australia's international war effort keeping Australians safe at home?

MISSING CHILD (Canberra-Sydney)

Michael hasn't seen his son Matt in four years, following the boy's abduction by his mother. In 2013, Michael agreed to the boy's mother taking Matt to France for a six-week holiday. When she refused to bring him home to Sydney, Michael sought a court order, which was granted. But that's when the boy and her mother vanished, never to be seen again. Now, Australian Federal Police member Trish Halligan will present Michael with an age progressed photo to show him how his son would look today. Seeing Matt as a teenager is a big shock to Michael, but it's a vital tool to help Interpol find his son and hopefully bring him home. Each year, 120 children are illegally taken out of Australia by a family member. Only half that number are returned.

OPERATION NIGHT SAFE (Perth)

Drunk and drug affected young men, brawling teenagers and binge drinking young women passing out in the street. That's a typical Friday night in Northbridge, Perth, as seen by Acting Sergeant Leanne Murdoch, the WA Police officer in charge of Operation Night Safe. The aim of Night Safe is to reduce alcohol-fuelled violence and to prevent youths from doing injury to themselves. Police officers hit the streets in numbers, supported by the team in the surveillance centre, who monitor more than 180 closed circuit cameras in the volatile entertainment district. The first callout sees the police team issuing a 'move on' notice to a group of unruly young men ejected from a pub. Instead of moving on quietly, the young men subject the police to an abusive rant. And that's just the beginning.

BRISBANE WATCH HOUSE (Brisbane)

"That's probably the worst thing. Being hated. All the time. Every day". So says Sergeant Kym Hayes, Shift Supervisor at the Brisbane Watch House. After the usual assortment of young men brought in after a night out with their mates Sergeant Hayes meets Olivia, a highly agitated, violent offender who is a danger to herself as well as Watch House staff. The abuse and tantrums require her to be placed into a rarely used padded cell. When Olivia calms down enough to talk sensibly, she reveals a tragic past.



EPISODE 2

Screening Tuesday, 14 November at 8.30pm on ABC & ABC iview

Are we living in a time of fear? Are the threats to Australians real or exaggerated? In Darwin, a judge decides the fate of a 20-year-old man charged under the Northern Territory's Mandatory Sentencing Laws. At a South Australian jail, six prison cells are raided in an effort to crack a suspected drug ring. A trainee is about to take his first live call on the National Security Hotline.

MOBILONG (Near Adelaide, SA)

Australia's prison population is on the rise. In South Australia's Mobilong Prison, staff plan a surprise raid of six targeted cells. They suspect drug dealing. The mission is to find evidence of Suboxone, a prescription drug used by prisoners as an opiate substitution. It's being illegally trafficked into Mobilong and is highly valued in the prison economy. What might be worth \$5 in the community is worth \$1,000 inside Mobilong, so inmates who manage to smuggle Suboxone establish a drug ring with beachheads of power and influence. This is exactly what the authorities want to stamp out.

YOUTH JUSTICE COURT (Darwin)

In the midst of a Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, Judge Sue Oliver presides over the Youth Justice Court in Darwin. One of her cases involves a 20-year-old man who is facing jail under mandatory sentencing laws. He was charged on drug offences shortly after his 18th birthday and there is only one way he can now escape a prison sentence. His defence lawyer needs to convince Judge Oliver there are particular circumstances that warrant no conviction being recorded.

NATIONAL SECURITY HOTLINE (Canberra)

"That one was tougher, I was a little bit flustered to be honest, I was panicking." These are the words of Andrew Kelly, a former police officer in training for a new role as a surge operator for the National Security Hotline. The NSH has taken more than 250,000 calls from people concerned about potential acts of terrorism on Australian soil. Trainee operators are put under real pressure to gain experience in the art of extracting crucial information from concerned members of the public, who often ring anonymously. Andrew is grilled in a series of mock calls to establish his suitability for the role. Once he passes these tests, he'll take his first 'live' call.

PRE-CURSER RAID (Sydney)

Australian Border Force officers are on the trail of a drug importer. Having seized seven kilograms of ephedrine, a key ingredient in the manufacture of the drug ice, they are on their way to a suburban house to execute a search warrant. The ephedrine was intercepted en route to the Sydney address and officers hope to find the drug importers living at the house. Australian Border Force conducts 20 raids like this one every week.



EPISODE 3

Screening Tuesday, 21 November at 8.30pm on ABC & ABC iview

In Eucla, Western Australia, a husband and wife police team patrol the border for drug runners and lead footers. NSW police conduct raids to apprehend violent offenders. A young officer subjects himself to viewing child porn as he helps the team tackle paedophilia. An identity theft help centre is overwhelmed by the number of cases.

EUCLA POLICE (Eucla, WA)

Drug syndicates wanting to get a toehold in Perth have only three ways to transport their product: by air, sea, or across the longest straight stretch of tar sealed road in Australia, the Eyre Highway on the Nullarbor Plain. If they go this way, the criminals have to get past the likes of husband and wife policing team Constables Luci Cleghorn and Kam Kamboj, stationed at remote Eucla, on the WA/SA border. There's no police lock up here; when Luci and Kam make an arrest, they have to drive the offender 900 kilometres to Kalgoorlie. This is a snapshot of policing in one of Australia's most remote locations.

REGION ENFORCEMENT SQUAD (Sydney)

An 18-year-old man with a history of violence, affray and assault is wanted in connection with a robbery. The job of arresting him goes to the Sydney Region Enforcement Squad, a specialist crew of police officers who also respond to riots and bomb threats. There's an added complication to this arrest warrant: there will be women and small children present in the house where the 18-year-old lives. He won't be going quietly. The SRES is conducting three raids in one sweep today. They operate with speed as well as precision. When they arrive at a targeted address, there's no certainty about who is behind that door. This is high risk policing in densely populated residential environments.

ID CARE (Sunshine Coast, Qld)

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing sectors of crime in Australia.

A desperate woman rings up the ID Care hotline and tells her story. *"On Tuesday, my phone's sim was hacked and used to get into my Gmail, and then only yesterday I found out they'd stolen my credit card from my mail and maxxed it out."* ID Care is the only support service of its kind in Australia. It caters to victims of identity theft and cybercrime, from credit card fraud to romance scams. But the experts at ID Care have their own frustrations trying to sort out the mess. As ID Care founder Professor David Lacey says, *"The criminals are winning. We're not"*.

CHILD EXPLOITATION COURT (Melbourne)

Detective Senior Constable Matt Lee is about to get a lesson he'll never forget. He's going to be exposed to incredibly graphic child pornography, some involving infants. He's advised not to watch and listen at the same time, in order to protect himself. Matt is a member of the Joint Anti Child Exploitation Team, a partnership between the Australian Federal Police and Victoria Police. He has to know how to classify child porn in order to do his job. Matt will be offered counselling to help deal with the shock of what he's shown. It's confronting but worthwhile work. At any given moment, 750,000 child predators are actively online around the world.



EPISODE 4

Screening Tuesday, 28 November at 8.30pm on ABC & ABC iview

Our governments commit billions of dollars to keeping Australians safe. Politicians and the media commit millions of words reminding us how dangerous the world we live in is. But how does this look, day to day? In the Middle East, an RAAF Strike Fighter pilot flies into battle against Islamic State. In Hobart, a desperate mother faces court with her drug recovering son. In Sydney, Border Force's Counter Terrorism Unit allows cameras in for the first time. In a Canberra bunker, the Crisis Coordination Centre is monitoring activities around Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's first face to face meeting with President Donald Trump.

CRISIS COORDINATION CENTRE (Canberra)

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is in New York City for his first face to face meeting with President Donald Trump. There's a cyclone brewing off the coast of Vanuatu. Several unrelated incidents have occurred that may or may not be terror or protest related. All of this information is collated and responded to from one location: the Crisis Coordination Centre in Canberra. This is the nerve centre for intelligence, domestic and global, that informs Australia's relevant institutions about where the danger lays: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For the first time, cameras have been allowed into this high security bunker as we follow a shift from the morning briefing. This is potentially the war room if there's a catastrophic event locally or globally. Whether it's seismic activity in North Korea or a suspicious suitcase left outside parliament jouse, the CCC collates and strategically disperses that information. To gain access, our crew had to pass through six stages of security. Once there, it was access all areas.

FA18/KC30 RE-FUELLING (Middle East)

In Iraq, the siege of Mosul has begun. Australia's Air Force is supporting the advancing coalition troops on the ground, as the battle to destroy Islamic State gains traction. At a secret air base in the Middle East, F/A-18 Strike Fighter Pilot Macca prepares for his undisclosed mission. He'll be in the air for 10+ hours, flying over the most dangerous war-torn region in the world. A crew of fellow Australian air-to-air refuellers are also preparing for take-off. Every day, Australians fly missions into Iraq and Syria. Our cameras have privileged access to the role Australia is playing in the global conflict.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT (Hobart)

This is a story about the extraordinary lengths a mother will go to keep her son out of jail. The crime and punishment cycle in Australia is fuelled by the illegal drugs market. Treena has watched her son Shaun slip into the wrong company to support his habit. Now he's facing the magistrate who has seen it all before. At one stage, Treena was so desperate she considered locking her son in a shipping container to get him off drugs. Today Treena takes Shaun to court in Hobart, where the Magistrate will question him about his recent association with an outlawed motorcycle gang. This is also an insight into one magistrate's different approach to a traditional problem. How should Australia deal with its drug offenders and re-offenders? Does locking them up keep the community safe? Or does it simply create more accomplished criminals, who threaten and damage the community even more on their release? Will a compassionate magistrate put Shaun on the road to redemption?

CTU (Sydney)

At Sydney International Airport, a young couple faces intense questioning at the departure gate. After selling a car, a few days ago they booked one-way tickets to Lebanon in the Middle East. Seemingly spontaneous travel to destinations near conflict zones is a red flag for the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) at Australian Border Force. The CTU was established in 2014 after an escalation in global terrorism. This is the first-time cameras have been embedded with the CTU during a typical shift. Cheryl came to Australia for its lifestyle and adventure. She's now a CTU Supervisor, based at Sydney Airport. Cheryl carries a Glock pistol, handcuffs and capsicum spray. She's trained to detect suspicious behaviour in passengers, arriving and departing. Later in her shift, Cheryl questions a male passenger who is returning from Lebanon. She examines the contents of the man's phone and discovers a video on his Whatsapp that is so shocking that other CTU officers are immediately called in. The CTU has the power to inspect the contents of anyone's phone without cause or suspicion. These are powers that the police outside of the airport don't have. This raises the question of what's a thought crime and what's a real crime. And how liable is an individual for carrying offensive material received wittingly or unwittingly via social media?



EPISODE 5

Screening Tuesday, 5 December at 8.30pm on ABC & ABC iview

The busiest remand centre in Australia goes into lockdown when inmates charged with terrorism offences are brought down from the cells. In the Torres Strait, Border Force officers race to intercept a foreign fishing vessel skirting close to Australian waters. Deputy Chief Magistrate Jelena Popovic wrestles with releasing defendants into the community or whether to remand them in jail. In a Queensland high school, a former police officer sparks a debate about sexual consent.

SILVERWATER (Sydney)

There's a new class of prisoner in our jails. They're called 'Double As' - convicted for, or suspected of, terror acts. When these extreme high-risk prisoners are brought down from the cells, the busiest remand facility in Australia goes into lockdown. Officers at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre in Sydney's Silverwater have a special protocol in place to deal with them. The AA inmates are handcuffed and shackled at the feet then led by specially trained high-risk escort security. The AAs are attending court today, along with about 50 'normal' inmates. Some of them are facing a term behind bars for the first time. This is what it's like to go to jail.

MELBOURNE MAG COURT (Melbourne)

This is an up close and personal insight into the person who decides, on behalf of the community, who goes to jail and who walks free. A man charged with stealing more than \$300 worth of champagne from a liquor store has applied for bail in the Melbourne Magistrates Court. Now it falls to the Deputy Chief Magistrate Jelena Popovic to decide his fate. The man's lawyer needs to convince her that his client does not pose an unacceptable risk to the community if she lets him out on bail. The deputy chief magistrate must also consider the alternative, keeping the offender on remand until his case is heard. It's a daily dilemma faced by Jelena Popovic. Her job is made harder by the fact that police arrest rates are up, prisons are clogged and court resources are stretched to the limit with increased caseloads.

DV EDUCATION (Toowoomba, Queensland)

A class of teenagers in a Toowoomba high school is shown a powerful but shocking film about a controlling 18-year-old man who bashed, kicked and strangled his 16-year-old ex-girlfriend to near death. The film is shown by Melinda Priddins, an ex-cop turned social worker, as part of a Love Bites workshop to promote respectful relationships among young people. It has a powerful impact. Melinda engages the students in difficult conversations about sexual assault and domestic violence, in order to empower them and bring about attitudinal change.

WARRIER REEF (Torres Strait)

Since its formation in July 2015, the Australian Border Force has been patrolling the vast waters north of Australia for everything from pirates, illegal fishermen and the transport of human cargo. Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent every year on crewing vessels like the Cape Jarvis. How incident filled is a random day at sea? Are the threats real or exaggerated, as some politicians and commentators claim? Today the crew of the Cape Jarvis are racing against the tide to intercept a foreign fishing vessel that's dangerously close to entering Australian waters. Two nimble pursuit boats are deployed from the Cape Jarvis by a team of Marine Tactical Officers. But in order to make the intercept, they'll need to beat the outgoing tide on the reef.



EPISODE 6

Screening Tuesday, 12 December at 8.30pm on ABC & ABC iview

Shot over one continuous 48-hour period, this series reveals what goes into the fight to preserve our national security and personal security. In Sydney, NRL Sharks Chairman Damian Keogh is caught and charged with cocaine possession during an operation by the NSW Police Detection Dog Unit. In Melbourne, Border Force X-ray a shipping container on suspicion of drugs. In Queensland, a rookie constable has her first posting in a town where three police a week are assaulted. In Sydney, a case worker tries to find accommodation for elderly women who have been thrown out of home by their own children.

DRUG DOGS (Sydney)

Our cameras capture the moment when NRL Sharks Chairman and former Olympian, Damian Keogh, is caught and charged with cocaine possession. It happens during a night operation by the NSW Police Detection Dog Unit on the streets of Kings Cross and Woolloomooloo. The police take a high visibility approach to cleaning out Australia's cocaine capital. Six police officers accompany drug dog Ree and his handler Constable Mark Camillieri.

CONTAINER EXAM (Melbourne)

In the Port of Melbourne, where more than 7,000 containers are processed daily, Border Force Inspector Mike Hall is hoping to uncover a major drug importation. He's been tipped off about the impending arrival of a container load of empty plastic bottles. Mike believes a criminal syndicate could be hiding drugs in the plastic bottles. To find out, he's going to X-ray the load in the Port of Melbourne's large scanning hall.

Mt. ISA (Mt. Isa, Qld)

In the Queensland mining town of Mt. Isa, Constable Steph Palmer is on her first posting since graduating from the police academy. This is a town with a high incidence of violence towards police. Three police officers get assaulted in the outback town every week. Steph has to deal with an assault rate in Mt. Isa that is seven times the state average. Her first callout is a breach of bail conditions. Then, a violent street fight breaks out. Two brothers are seriously hurting each other and Steph has to deal with the fallout.

FAMILY VIOLENCE SHELTER (Sydney)

It's a shocking statistic, but women over 50 are now the fastest growing group of people experiencing homelessness in Australia. Even more shocking, many of these women are abused or thrown out by their own children. 'Our Lady of the Way' is the only refuge of its kind in New South Wales, catering exclusively for elderly single women. It receives no government funding and can only give a place to one out of every three who apply for emergency accommodation. A grandmother recounts the day she was dropped on a street corner in Campbelltown by her daughter. She had nothing to her name but a suitcase with some clothes.



MSC

MEDU

705523
45G1

ATTENTION
USE OF FORK LIFTS
ONLY
WITH
SUPPORT
STRUT

MAXGROSS
TARE
PAYLOAD
CAP.

32,500	KGS
71,850	LBS
3,840	KGS
8,470	LBS
28,660	KGS
63,180	LBS
76.4	CUM
2,700	CUFT

CEF
9

AIR

CAUTION
HIGH VOLTAGE

CIMC

KEEPING AUSTRALIA SAFE

Narrator, Chris Bath



Chris Bath is one of Australia's most respected news and current affairs presenters and seasoned journalists. Born and raised in Sydney's west, Chris began her journalism career at Sydney's Radio 2UE after completing a Communications degree at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst. In 1989, she jagged her first television news job at Prime TV, Albury, then moved to Newcastle and took on a similar news reading/reporting role at NBN Television for nearly five years.

Chris left Newcastle for the Seven Network, Sydney in 1996. Chris spent the next 20 years of her career at Seven hosting many different shows, including the premium public affairs program *Sunday Night* from its inception until she departed the network in 2015. From anchoring prime time news bulletins, to interviewing politicians on *Face to Face*, she has also hosted various other public affairs programmes and reported for the "Witness" program.

Chris was the live anchor for rolling network coverage of many elections; breaking news stories from floods to earthquakes, mine disasters and bushfires...even Royal weddings. It's a job that saw her MC the prelude to the *Opening Ceremony* of the Sydney Olympics, and took her around the world, covering other Olympic Games. She has interviewed Presidents, Prime Ministers and international pop stars. With a personal career highlight tango dancing to ACDC under a mirror ball in the grand finale of *Dancing with the Stars*.

Chris' most recent roles include spots as the Drive host on ABC 702 Sydney, reporting and hosting on *The Project* for Network Ten. Only recently, Chris returned to *Sunday Night* on the Seven Network for a special report on an Australian survivor of the terrorism attack in Nice, France. Chris still finds time for freelance writing for newspapers and corporate work, including tireless work for multiple charities.

Chris currently hosts Evenings with Chris Bath on ABC Radio Sydney, Canberra, and NSW Monday to Thursday from 7pm – 10pm and will also be involved in other television projects throughout the year.

KEEPING AUSTRALIA SAFE

Background and Logistics

Following the ground-breaking series *Keeping Australia Alive*, that captured a day in the life of our health system, the idea of attempting something even more ambitious grew very quickly in mid-2016. The burning questions were already on everyone's lips. How safe are we? Where are the real dangers for Australians? What is the cost of keeping Australia safe? And what is our concern for and vigilance against the new threats of terrorism and cybercrime doing to the way we live in 2017?

In order to capture a meaningful and significant snapshot of our security services in a single day, following the template of *Keeping Australia Alive*, the producers had to convince the leaders of dozens of institutions that it was in *everyone's* interests to get on board with this project. This couldn't be a tribute piece to well-run training exercises and incident free 'ride alongs' with media friendly spokespeople. Candid conversations with those at the front line of state and federal policing, Border Force, the judicial system, defence, corrections and non-for-profit community action groups revealed to the producers that everyone is facing the pressures of the job, as well as the pressure that public scrutiny brings. They are affected by budget, accountability and public opinion. Our invitation to each was to allow Australians to see first-hand the daily challenges they encounter and the duress that puts them under. We wanted people telling their own story in the environment that they operate under. And it was from these conversations that we embarked on negotiating access to groups that are traditionally very guarded about their public appearance and about their operational methods. In order to maintain the independence of the production, consistent with ABC Editorial Policies, none of the institutions, were granted a right of veto over material shot in the two days. The only exclusions were for reasons of privacy, potential contempt of court, or for material that compromised national security or confidential methodology (i.e. we didn't want to give criminals a roadmap for how to bypass police operations).

A note to our story selection. The aim of the series is to inform and provoke a national conversation about the cost of our safety and about where the real threats lie. To do this, we needed to offer up different perspectives from different worlds. While this series is not an audit, comparing the resourcing of our defence forces abroad to those of a community run women's refuge, it is an invitation to consider and debate the priorities of our nation. Crime has become vastly more internationalised (events from overseas directly affecting Australians at home), and vastly more sophisticated with the advent of the internet. The biggest increase in resourcing is going to the so called, War on Terror. Two of the fastest growing sectors of crime are Identity Theft and Child Exploitation (cybercrime). The statistics say one thing, and the politicians and media say another. During research, a poll of Australian women revealed that more are concerned about being a victim of terrorism than being a victim of sexual violence. Australia ranks equal sixth as a nation in its concern about ISIS, which is remarkable given our geographical proximity to that terror group. We are alert and afraid. This series might help us to understand why.

In the early stages of research and development it became clear that this series needed to be recorded over a 48-hour period (as distinct from **Keeping Australia Safe**, which was shot over 24 hours). By filming on a Friday and Saturday we maximized our chances of capturing stories that were active, that resolved, and that allowed our protagonists to be themselves in front of the camera. In a medical environment, practitioners are accustomed to explaining their process as they consult with a patient. It's part of the job. With policing and the military, this is a much bigger ask. These are men and women of action, not words. The job of the producers was to give those practitioners the confidence to treat the cameras as a trusted companion, not a potential public relations minefield. The results speak for themselves.

Filming over 48 hours means more cameras and more people on the ground. The production used a combination of shooter/producers (one-man bands), and multi-camera crews. In all, 200 cameras were deployed across the continent (as well as Afghanistan and the Middle East). And on Friday May 5th 2017...the clock started ticking.

From a story point of view, the big fear was that nothing would happen on those two days. Those fears were unfounded. Straight away we had a problem in Kabul. Just prior to our arrival, a NATO convoy had been attacked by suicide bombers, killing eight. Our shooter/producer was embedded with the Australian forces in Kabul. They were in lock down. We had little contact with our shooter/producer during this period. His safety was of paramount concern but we also envisioned him filming the inside of his secured room for 48 hours! The immediate danger passed and our producer was able to go out with the Guardian Angels to record an extraordinary story that features in Episode 1 of **Keeping Australia Safe**.

As the two days progressed, the reports from the field rolled in. While we lost a couple of stories, and others didn't pan out the way we had anticipated, overall, we got more than we bargained for. We had our series.



KEEPING AUSTRALIA SAFE

Production Details



The Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Screen Australia present **Keeping Australia Safe**, an ITV Studios Australia production. With six-episodes, filmed in one continuous 48-hour period, **Keeping Australia Safe** was produced by the filmmakers of the Logie Award nominated *Keeping Australia Alive*. **Keeping Australia Safe** is produced by Elle Gibbons (*Keeping Australia Alive*, *Paddock to Plate*) with executive producers Ben Ulm (*Keeping Australia Alive*, *The First ANZACs*, *Trishna & Krishna: The Quest For Separate Lives*) and Rob Wallace (*MasterChef*, *Find My Family*) for ITV Studios Australia. ABC Head of Factual, Steve Bibb and ABC Commissioning Editor, Stephen Oliver.

Keeping Australia Safe was produced with the co-operation of the Australian Federal Police, The Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the Australian Border Force, NSW Police, Queensland Police, Tasmania Police, Western Australian Police, Attorney General's Department, Identity Care Australia & New Zealand Limited, Magistrates Court of Victoria, McAuley Community Services for Women, Northern Territory Youth Justice Court, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, The Department of Attorney General & Justice NSW, The Department of Correctional Services SA, The Department of Defence Representing the Commonwealth of Australia, The Department of Justice Tasmania, Toowoomba Flexis School, Western Australia Start Court and Inner Melbourne Community Legal.

Executive Producer: Ben Ulm is one of Australia's most experienced producers of documentaries and factual series. 2017 marks his 34th year into an uninterrupted career in television working in news, documentary, entertainment, comedy, reality, observational documentary, and lifestyle genres. Since graduating in 1983 from Mitchell College A.E. (Bathurst, NSW) with a BA Communications Degree (Broadcast Journalism & Documentary) Ben has developed, produced, written and/or directed factual programmes for each of the Australian free-to-air networks, subscription television, UK broadcasters (Channel 4 and History) as well as US Networks (National Geographic, Fox, Discovery, Health, and Travel Channels).

Executive Producer: Rob Wallace, started out as a journalist, working for regional broadcasters in Victoria and Queensland. He then spent 5 years as a journalist and producer for *National Nine News* in Sydney, before going freelance. In the last 22 years, he has worked across various genres from factual, to lifestyle and reality. Highlights include *Olivia Newton John's WildLife*, *Emergency 000*, *Our Country*, *Hot Property*, *Hot Auctions*, *Harry's Practice*, *Where Are They Now with Peter Luck*, *What's Good for You*, *Animal Gladiators*, *History Detectives*, *Find My Family*, *Dinner Date*, *The Biggest Loser*, and *Masterchef Australia*. He also worked as a Network EP for Channel Ten for two years.

Supervising Series Producer: Elle Gibbons has 16 years' experience in the television industry, with a wide range of experience across various genres, from studio based shows, entertainment, lifestyle, reality, observational documentary, and historical documentary. She developed and then series produced the Logie Awards nominated *Keeping Australia Alive* in 2016. Elle has worked in house at Network Seven and the Nine Network as well as several independent production houses.

Series Producer – Story: James Peyton is an accomplished television series producer, director, and camera operator. After an initial career in the scientific and legal fields, James first made the leap into television in 2001 on *Burke's Backyard*. Since then James has produced hundreds of hours of television and helped create numerous programs specifically within the Lifestyle, Factual and Documentary formats.

Series Producer - Operations: Toby Searles has 15 years of experience in the television industry. Born and raised in Brisbane where he obtained a BBus degree in Communications (Advertising), he moved to Sydney in 2004 and soon thereafter became a valued member of the ITV Studios' Australia team. As an experienced and creative producer, he has worked on a wide array of formats and is as equally comfortable in a post-production edit suite as he is directing and producing in the field. His credit list includes: *Keeping Australia Alive*, *The Royal Flying Doctor Service*, and *The Contender*.





EMU/MOMP
DILL
PROPERTY

2

LOW HEADROOM
WIND THE STEP

BX-84G