- The AFP is well informed of the criminal practices and illicit trading taking place on the dark web. We are working with our partners to combat all forms of technology-enabled crime.
- In recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of seizures of all drug types via the mail system detected at the Australian border.
- High frequency-low volume importations such as ones through our mail system pose a considerable cumulative threat.
- These shipments contribute towards supplying the Australian market and exacerbate social problems within Australia associated with drug harm. Seizing these smaller importations can impact on disrupting the drug trade.
- The AFP and other Australian law enforcement agencies are well aware of this method of drug importation and are committed to targeting and combating it. The AFP works alongside its partner agencies on this matter, including Border Force and state and territory police.
- While it is not an offence to access websites that provide access to sellers of illegal substances, it is an offence to import or attempt to import a border controlled drug including synthetic drugs into Australia purchased from such a website.
- Offenders should be aware that if they seek to import illicit and synthetic drugs they will be subject of law enforcement scrutiny and investigation.
- Recently, a national co-ordinated policing campaign focused on detecting drugs being distributed via the Australian postal service saw a total of 62 illicit drugs or illegally obtained prescription medications seized by police. Operation Vitreus was co-ordinated by the National Methylamphetamine Strategy Group, which is currently lead by SA Police (SAPOL), but involved all State and Territory police agencies, working in conjunction with the Australian Federal Police, Australian Border Force (ABF), the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and AUSTRAC. (More information is available herehttps://www.afp.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/illicit-substances-intercepted-mail)
- Last month, the AFP and ABF announced the results of a police operation targeting parcel post importations in Victoria:
 - o AFP Operation CROZET commenced in February 2017 when the Australian Border Force (ABF) referred a number of international mail items to the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The operation resulted in the seizure of over 33 kilograms of border controlled drugs and two arrests. (More information is available here https://www.afp.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/police-operation-nets-33kgs-drugs-two-arrested)
- In November 2016, the AFP participated in the global 'Darknet Period of Action' along with Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), Australian Border Force (ABF) and state and territory police services. The operation involved activity across every state and territory in Australia with a total of 11 search warrants executed resulting in four arrests and six summons issued. Illicit substances discovered during search warrant activity included MDMA, steroids, cannabis, opium, cocaine and methylamphetamine. (More information is available here https://www.afp.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/international-operation-targets-users-darknet-marketplaces)

- The AFP will continue to work with international partners to identify and apprehend offenders associated with drug importation, including those who operate through overseas based websites such as Silk Road.
- For example, in December 2013 the AFP successfully located and arrested an alleged Australian based administer of Silk Road, Peter Nash, as part of the international operation to shut down Silk Road. Nash has since been extradited to the United States to face charges for conspiracy to traffic narcotics, conspiracy to commit computer hacking and conspiracy to commit money laundering.