



## Media Release

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### **Virtual Global Taskforce wins international cybercrime award**

A prestigious international award has been won by a team of Australians and their international colleagues working with the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT), combating online child sex exploitation.

The International Law Enforcement Cybercrime Award (ILECA) for 2005 recognised the innovation and best practices utilised by VGT in its prevention, detection, and/or responses to cybercrimes.

The Australian High Tech Crime Centre (AHTCC) Director, Federal Agent Kevin Zuccato, said he was proud that the centre was a founding member of the Virtual Global Taskforce, along with the National Crime Squad for England and Wales, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Interpol and the United States Department of Homeland Security.

The Australian Federal Police Online Child Sex Exploitation Team in conjunction with the AHTCC investigate suspicious behavior reported online through the VGT web site and are leading the planning of the VGT 24/7 online policing presence.

“The VGT recognises that along with the tremendous advantages of technological developments, comes the equally vital responsibility to ensure that people’s safety is not compromised, particularly those most vulnerable - our children,” Federal Agent Zuccato said.

“I am delighted that this work has been acknowledged by the global community through the announcement of this award.”

The VGT uses proactive and successful inter-agency collaboration with community partners to achieve its goals. It is an international collaborative project that commenced in November 2003 to provide a global platform for law enforcement to identify, locate, and rescue children from abuse, hold offenders to account and make the online environment safer. The VGT also involves key industry stakeholders in the combat against online child sex exploitation.

Microsoft Director Federal Sector Greg McAnulty commended the work of AHTCC involved in the VGT and congratulated them on the award.

“We are very impressed with the AHTCC’s work with VGT eradicating such crimes and apprehending the perpetrators across the world. Microsoft will continue its strong support for such global initiatives,” Mr McAnulty said.

The Award is made by the Society for the Policing of Cyberspace (POLCYB), a non-profit society founded in 1999 in British Columbia Canada and industry partner Motorola Inc.

Further information regarding the VGT is located at: [www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com](http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com)

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