

# AFP moves toward the future



**The AFP's first office was a clutch of rooms in downtown Canberra. Thirty years later, it is preparing to move to a customised headquarters building in the Parliamentary Triangle.**

In 1979, the AFP's first headquarters was a small suite of rooms in the National Mutual building in London Circuit, Canberra. In 1983, the AFP relocated to NRMA House on Northbourne Avenue and, around three years later, moved to its current headquarters at 68 Northbourne Avenue.

The Edmund Barton Building (EBB) in Canberra's Parliamentary precinct has been selected as the new site for the AFP's national headquarters. During 2010, around 2000 staff will relocate to the building.

After touring the building recently, Chief Operating Officer Andrew Wood said the AFP's new home would allow the AFP to more efficiently deliver its charter, as well as providing a better working environment for its staff.

"This building fulfils all of the AFP's requirements," Mr Wood said.

"It is large enough to house our headquarters operational functions and support staff, and is very close to Parliament and other government departments.

"The relocation will bring about positive change for the AFP and its staff. We will be able to perform our work more effectively and staff will have access to facilities such as break-out areas."

The EBB is a heritage-listed building with five levels above ground, sub-basement office space and over 300 car spaces. Approximately 40,000 square metres of office space are contained within the building which was built in the 1970s.

As part of the refurbishment and fit-out, the AFP is committed to achieving a high environmental rating in the building.

Environmental features in the EBB will include a 280 kilolitre tank to harvest rain-water for use in toilets and landscape watering, improved access to natural light, high performance double glazing on all windows and chilled beam environmental air conditioning. Another feature will be the use of energy-efficient T5 fluorescent lighting with movement detectors that will switch lights off when offices are unattended.

The EBB is on the Commonwealth Heritage List because it exhibits various heritage criteria including its rare and unusual features. It has aesthetic appeal and is associated with significant people such as its architect, Harry Seidler, and Australia's first Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton.

The AFP is working to uphold the heritage values of the site. The development of a café in one of the courtyards will realise Mr Seidler's original intention for the courtyard area by encouraging greater use of it.

The building has been refurbished in line with the Property Council of Australia's A-Grade office standard, which means the building has floor plates greater than 900 square metres, is well located, has basement parking, good views and high quality finishes and building services. As part of the refurbishment the building was stripped back to its concrete base

and now has new carpets, ceilings and bathrooms on all floors. New electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling, and fire and emergency systems have also been installed.

The AFP portfolios to be housed in EBB are currently located across the ACT. Housing its headquarters function in a single building will achieve business and cost efficiencies through centralisation of national leadership, operational strategy, management and enabling functions.

After such a humble beginning 30 years ago, the AFP is now looking forward to bringing its core business areas together under one roof.



**01:** The Edmund Barton Building  
**02:** Chief Operating Officer Andrew Wood