

Case 3 – Suspect faked multiple passports to launder funds

A law enforcement investigation uncovered a suspect who was creating false passports in his family home, and using them to launder money overseas.

Law enforcement officers conducted a search of suspect A’s home, where he lived with his wife and child. The search revealed AUD152,000 cash in a box in a cupboard, and a CD-ROM containing software for producing false Korean and Chinese passports. They also found two drivers licences bearing different names but featuring photographs of the same person. The search also found several passport-sized photographs of different individuals.

Suspect A told authorities that the cash was being stored on behalf of another individual, suspect B, who was subsequently charged with offences relating to the use of false accounts.

Further investigations revealed a false bank account was opened under one of the names used by suspect A, using one of the false passports discovered in his house. Over a three-month period, AUD97,000 had been deposited into this account. During the same period, suspect A had conducted nine funds transfers, worth a total of AUD89,100, from this account to an Indonesian account.

In addition to the arrest of suspect B, suspect A was arrested and ultimately sentenced to four years jail for offences against the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW) and the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.

Offence	Money laundering
Customer	Individual
Industry	Banking (ADIs)
Channel	Electronic
Jurisdiction	International – Indonesia
Designated service	Account and deposit-taking services
Indicators	Customer undertaking transactions that appear to be inconsistent with their profile and/or transaction history: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple international funds transfers Use of false identification documentation