National Anti-Corruption Commission

Introduction to Australia's National Anti-Corruption Commission

Overview of our agency's work and mission

Australia's National Anti-Corruption Commission was established under the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* to detect, investigate and prevent corrupt conduct involving public officials. As an independent body, the Commission is free from political or external influence.

It has two core functions:

- Detecting and investigating serious or systemic corruption in the Australian public sector
- Educating officials and the public about corruption risks and how to avoid and address them.

The Commission commenced operations on 1 July 2023, and its leadership includes the Commissioner, the Hon Paul Brereton AM RFD SC, 3 Deputy Commissioners and a CEO. S As at 30 June 2025 there were 231 staff members.

The Commission's jurisdiction is concerned with corrupt conduct that involves Australian federal public officials. This includes parliamentarians (including Ministers of state) and staff members of government agencies, which includes consultants and advisers involved in providing services to or for an agency.

Anyone can make a referral, including anonymous referrals. There are powerful protections from liability and reprisals for anyone who refers a matter to the Commission.

The Commission may make administrative findings of fact that a person has engaged in corrupt conduct. It does not make findings of criminal guilt, and does not conduct prosecutions, although it can, where appropriate, refer matters to a prosecuting authority.

For more information about the Commission, please visit its website.

Achievements since we launched

The Commission is proud of its many achievements in the past 2 and a half years.

Between August and September 2024, the Commission conducted the inaugural Commonwealth Integrity Survey. A total of 58,309 survey responses were collected across 171 public sector agencies. The Commission is using the survey results to assess corruption risks and identify potential vulnerabilities and focus its detection and prevention efforts.

On 30 June 2025 the Commission published its first investigation report, Operation Kingscliff, which was a paradigm case of nepotism in recruitment in the Australian public sector.

It has also produced a number of guidance and information documents. All corrupt conduct has its seed in a conflict of interest – between public duty and private interest. The Commission's guide, *Conflicts of interest and corrupt conduct*, gives clear, practical advice on how to recognise, disclose, declare, monitor and manage conflicts of interest to prevent them from becoming corruption risks. Ahead of Australia's last federal election in March 2025, the Commissioner published an open letter providing guidance about corruption risks and vulnerabilities in the context of elections. The Commission has also just published a guide for Australian State-Owned Enterprises on corruption risks and reporting requirements.

In its corruption prevention and education role, in its first 2 years the Commission has conducted more than 340 engagements nationally and internationally with parliamentarians and their staffers, agency heads and senior public servants, professional associations and civil society organisations, and the community. This includes the Commission's attendance at the tenth and eleventh Conferences of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption, and the 8th Hong Kong ICAC Symposium in May 2024.

In February 2025 the Commission was confirmed as a member of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies.

Upcoming event: The Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference 2026 (APSACC)

In September 2026, the Commission will host APSACC 2026, in Canberra, Australia. With the theme 'A strategic approach to integrity – culture, systems and accountability', APSACC 2026 will provide anti-corruption agencies, academics and practitioners from the

public and private sectors the opportunity to share their knowledge, experience and expertise. Sessions will include panel-style discussions on topics such as AI and automated decision-making, whistleblower protection, ethical decision-making and conflict of interest.

The Commission warmly welcomes participation from IAACA members. Please visit the APSACC website for further information, including ticket details.