

The Hon. Joy Burch MLA
Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via Email: Joy.Burch@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Madam Speaker

**STATEMENT TO THE ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:
INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY - 9 DECEMBER 2020**

In the lead-up to International Anti-Corruption Day on 9th of December 2020, I would like to invite all members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) to reflect on the global impact of corruption and your collective role in exposing and preventing corrupt conduct in the ACT public sector.

Corruption is pervasive and manifests in a multitude of ways. Corruption often involves someone using their public position, including the authority, access, and information this affords, to gain a personal benefit – for themselves or others. Regardless of how insignificant or trivial the personal benefit might seem; it is still corrupt conduct and it is never OK.

Corruption is not a victimless crime – it hurts everyone. It wastes public resources which should rightly be used to benefit the community. Left unchecked, corruption can erode the community's trust in our public institutions.

As leaders in the ACT community, MLA should always act with integrity, honesty and diligence to ensure public confidence in our system of government.

No one person is responsible for dealing with corruption. It is inherent upon all of us to act when something doesn't seem right – to speak up and report suspected wrongdoing. Speaking up helps to expose corrupt activities and risks that might otherwise remain concealed.

You each play a crucial role in exposing and preventing corruption, including in your capacity as mandatory reporters of corrupt conduct engaged in by other MLA and their staff, as required by law.

Your advocacy for and support of a zero-tolerance approach to corruption also acts as a strong deterrent of corrupt conduct in the ACT.

As we approach International Anti-Corruption Day, I invite you to renew your commitment to exposing and preventing corrupt conduct in the ACT public sector.

We must all be aware of, and remain vigilant to, the threat posed by corruption. Where we see conduct which falls short of integrity expectations, we must report this in an appropriate and timely manner.

Yours sincerely



Hon. Dennis Cowdroy AO QC
Integrity Commissioner

23 November 2020