



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

## Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21

### QUESTION ON NOTICE

Peter Cain MLA: To ask the Integrity Commissioner

Ref: Budget Statement A

In relation to: Education Programs

1. The Annual Report notes that one of the purposes of the ACT Integrity Commission under the *Integrity Commission Act 2018* is to “provide educational programs about the operation of this Act and the Commission, including providing advice, training and education services to:
  - the Legislative Assembly and the public sector to increase capacity to prevent corrupt conduct;
  - people who are required to report corrupt conduct under this Act; and
  - the community about the detrimental effects of corruption on public administration and ways in which to assist in preventing corrupt conduct.
  - a. Could you please provide a breakdown of the education programs being planned for the Legislative Assembly, the public sector, people who are required to report corruption under the Act and for the community?
  - b. Are there KPIs in place for these education programs?  
If so, could you please provide a breakdown of them and how they have been met?  
If not, why not?

The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

- 1 a) The Commission’s approach to corruption prevention and education is multi-faceted. That is, the Commission deploys a broad range of mechanisms to educate its many stakeholders. The size and scale of the Commission’s jurisdiction, coupled with the resources available to the Commission to perform its corruption prevention and education functions, demand an approach whereby the Commission targets its resources at areas where they will have the greatest impact.

Having adopted this approach, the Commission has to date been able to deliver best-fit products, advice and services to its stakeholders. This approach is particularly important in establishing the Commission’s value as a trusted anti-corruption adviser within the ACT public sector and broader ACT community.

Significant work to date has been focused on building relationships with senior public officials across all ACT Government agencies and raising awareness amongst the broader ACT public sector of the Commission's role, functions, powers, and corruption risks and vulnerabilities.

A key component of the Commission's approach to raising awareness has been to develop and publish a Corruption Prevention and Education Strategy, which is available on the Commission's website. The Strategy is both aspirational and descriptive. It aims to communicate the broad scope of the Commission's corruption prevention and education work, including our focus on research and analysis, awareness and education, and outreach and engagement.

Concurrently, the Commission is proactively engaging with and educating entities where specific corruption vulnerabilities are observed. For example, the Commission has distributed monthly or bi-monthly information briefs to relevant senior officials in ACT public sector entities on contemporary corruption issues, vulnerabilities and risks, identified during the Commission's investigatory and intelligence work.

In addition to the above, in 2020 the Commission:

- ran seven information sessions (in person and online) for public sector officials across all ACT Government Directorates, including a session for new Legislative Assembly members in October 2020;
- worked closely with the Office of the Legislative Assembly to ensure information on the role, functions and powers of the Commission were incorporated into relevant policy and guidelines for Members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff
- presented to several Directorate Audit and Risk Management Committees across the ACT public sector on the role and functions of the Commission;
- held two webinars for members of the public on the role, functions and powers of the Commission and how to report suspected corrupt conduct; and
- distributed multiple corruption information briefs to senior public sector officials across the whole of government.

In the lead up to International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2020 the Commission coordinated a series of whole-of-government communications and advice, including:

- the preparation of a joint communique supported by all Directors General and agency heads outlining their commitment to integrity in government;
- the tabling of a statement of commitment to integrity by the Speaker in the Legislative Assembly; and
- the publishing of a mandatory corruption notification decision making guide on the Commission's website.

The Commission's corruption prevention and education focus in 2021 will see greater emphasis placed on engaging with the ACT Community, including through the expansion of the Commission's social media presence. The Commission will also look to consolidate and building upon the work completed to date in partnership with ACT public sector agencies.

In particular, the Commission will focus on increasing public awareness of the role and work of the Commission, particularly through targeted engagement with specific community groups who rely on government services, and business groups that engage regularly with government, either through service provision or due to their regulation.

Notwithstanding the relative success of the Commission's corruption prevention and education team to date, scaling up and optimising its outreach and engagement functions, and its education programs, will almost certainly require additional staff and budget.

- 1 b) The Commission is yet to establish formal KPIs for its prevention and education programs. However this is under consideration, particularly in light of the imminent upscaling of the Commission's engagement with the ACT community. For example, the Commission is engaging with other federal and state anti-corruption agencies to better understand how they measure the relative success of their respective education programs.

In late 2020, the Commission began collecting quantitative and qualitative feedback from information sessions for the ACT public sector and the ACT community. Specifically, the Commission asks all information session attendees to complete a short survey on completion of the session. The survey asks attendees to identify why they attended the session and the extent to which they are satisfied the session improved their understanding of the Commission and in particular, their understanding of how to report corrupt conduct.