

MEDIA RELEASE

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RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Today, the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission tabled the Parliamentary Inspector's report into the serious misconduct of a former Commission officer.

The report is based on a matter that was discovered by the Commission and immediately reported to the Parliamentary Inspector.

Disciplinary proceedings were commenced by the Commission and the officer concerned was dismissed. The immediate supervisor also resigned from the Commission.

The Commission investigated the officer for serious misconduct on behalf of the Parliamentary Inspector, who was closely involved.

"What was discovered was a gross betrayal of the trust and authority placed in one of our officers," said Commissioner John McKechnie AO, KC.

The Commission is undertaking a broader review to determine how its governance, systems and processes might be improved.

"The very nature of the work undertaken by the Commission, requires some areas of our agency to maintain very high levels of confidentiality, and to be quite closed off, even from other parts of the Commission. In this instance, there was both 'wilful deception' and a failure of adequate supervision within that area of the business" said Commissioner McKechnie AO, KC.

The Commission knows better than anyone that serious misconduct and corruption can occur anywhere – including within integrity agencies themselves. When it does occur, and an individual officer engages in serious misconduct, it is a serious betrayal not just of the agency and its mission, but of all those colleagues who work extremely hard to identify and eliminate serious misconduct.

One of the abiding messages from the Corruption and Crime Commission to all agencies is to constantly learn and look for improvements that will mitigate against the risk of corruption and misconduct.

This report from the Parliamentary Inspector into serious misconduct within the Commission itself is a reminder that no agency is exempt or protected, and that we must all remain vigilant and active in the fight against corruption.

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