

MEDIA RELEASE

29 November 2018

Former Koorda Shire Councillor receives prison sentence

The former Koorda Shire Councillor at the centre of a Corruption and Crime Commission investigation into driver licence applications has today been sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

Gregory Paul Briotti, 56, was found guilty on nine counts of corruption for receiving payments and fees of more than \$50,000 for driving assessments that were not undertaken.

Criminal charges were recommended in the Commission's report into Corruption in Respect of Driver Licence Applications which was tabled in Parliament in December 2016.

Contracted by the Department of Transport as a vehicle licence examiner in 2014 and 2015,

Mr Briotti completed driving assessments without observing the person driving, pocketing associated payments and fees. An audit of 518 assessments Mr Briotti completed as an examiner resulted in more than one third being cancelled, suspended or reassessed.

Mr Briotti's contract with the Department was terminated immediately when the misconduct was uncovered and an investigation into the allegations commenced.

Addressing Mr Briotti in court, District Court Judge Lonsdale told him "Your offending was self-evidently very serious, it had the consequence of the safety of the public being put at risk. It is not known how many people you assessed as being competent to hold a licence without having tested them."

"Your dishonesty strikes at the heart of the integrity of the public service, upon which the entire community relies."

In sentencing Mr Briotti, she pointed towards the repeated and persistent nature of the offending, the financial benefit received and the fact that Mr Briotti's prior good character was not a mitigating factor, as it put him in the position to do what he did.

Mr Briotti will be eligible for parole after serving 12-months of his two-year sentence.

Today's sentencing is a reminder that corruption will not be tolerated and will be uncovered.

Contact the Corruption and Crime Commission

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The Commission's report also formed an opinion of serious misconduct against a Shire of Koorda employee, and an opinion of misconduct against a Shire of Dowerin employee.

While there was no evidence to suggest that either officer received a bribe for helping to administer the false assessments, it was clear both officers were aware that the system was being abused.

Public officers must be accountable for speaking out when faced with a situation that looks wrong – such matters can be escalated or reported anonymously to the Commission.

To make an allegation, please contact the Corruption and Crime Commission on

1800 809 000 or visit ccc.wa.gov.au

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