

MEDIA RELEASE

27 October 2021

Corruption and Crime Commission sets record for number of allegations assessed

The Corruption and Crime Commission's Annual Report 2020-21 has been tabled in State Parliament today.

The report details a year of significant activity and achievements, with 7,190 allegations formally assessed by the Commission. This is a 25 per cent increase on last year and set the scene for a busy year.

About a quarter, or 1,860 of the allegations, were referred to public sector agencies (including the WA Police Force) for action, with Commission oversight.

A total of 2,972 new notifications were received which reflects ongoing community awareness and confidence in the Commission's work.

Other highlights of the year include:

- 58 investigations conducted, with almost half (25) being initiated by the Commission in response to its strategic areas of focus of misconduct risk in the WA public sector;
- 67 per cent of investigations completed within 12 months (compared with 84 per cent last year) reflecting the complexity of investigations;
- 79 days of examinations were held (compared with 56 days last year), involving 108 witnesses;
- 12 investigations into unexplained wealth matters conducted (compared with seven last year); and
- 33 reports issued to State Parliament, agencies and heads of agencies.

A 30 per cent increase in days of examinations reflected the activity involved in investigating unexplained wealth matters and the timing of ongoing investigations. In particular, the investigation into the former Assistant Director General of the Department of Communities who has since pleaded guilty to more than 550 criminal charges and the complex investigation into a 'cover up' at Hakea Prison.

The Commission also continued its important role reporting to Parliament on matters of public interest and where valuable lessons can be learned and system improvements made. It tabled a follow-up report on the risks of serious misconduct within the State's prisons, as well as a second investigation on misconduct and corruption risks relating to annual electorate allowances paid to members of Parliament.

Other reports exposed serious misconduct risks and learnings for public sector agencies about:

- the management of controlled drugs in public hospitals;
- appropriate supervision of employees, particularly in regional locations; and
- procurement, including contract management corruption.

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The WA Police Force remained the subject of more than half of all allegations (approximately 54 per cent) assessed by the Commission.

Most of the 3,860 allegations involving the WA Police Force related to 'neglect of duty' or 'breach of procedure'. Seven investigations into police misconduct were conducted and 10 reports produced by the Commission, including two relating to excessive use of force.

The Commission continues its work with momentum into 2021-22, with a strong and committed team in place under the leadership of Commissioner John McKechnie QC, who was re-appointed near year-end, and Assistant Commissioner Scott Ellis.

ENDS

Read the Annual Report

[Corruption and Crime Commission Annual Report 2020-21](#)

Media contacts

Marie Mills: (08) 9421 3600 or 0418 918 202

Louisa Mitchell: (08) 9421 3600 or 0434 308 208