

## MEDIA RELEASE

15 February 2023

### Another productive year for the Corruption and Crime Commission

The Corruption and Crime Commission's Annual Report 2021-22 has been tabled in State Parliament today.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the Commission's operational and financial performance for the financial year during which time there were more than 7,000 allegations of serious misconduct assessed (down just 2.5 per cent on last year's record).

The Commission assessed a near record number of allegations with just over half coming from the community, demonstrating an encouraging level of awareness and ongoing confidence in the work of the Corruption and Crime Commission.

Some 18.7 per cent of allegations were referred back to the appropriate public authority for action, with Commission oversight of their investigations and follow-up reforms. The Commission took no further action on 64 per cent of allegations, and just over 16 per cent of allegations were out of the Commission's jurisdiction.

As has been the case previously, the WA Police Force was the subject of more than half of all allegations (approximately 54.4 per cent) assessed by the Commission.

During the year, the Commission commenced 57 investigations and completed 21 investigations.

Due to the nature of corruption and the increasing sophistication of some people seeking to elude the authorities, a number of the Commission's investigations are complex and lengthy – none more so than those relating to the Commission's work in fighting organised crime.

One of the Commission's main objectives is to remove the primary motivation for people involved in organised crime – financial gain. It uses its full legislative powers to identify and target any person who are suspected of accumulating unexplained wealth through unlawful means.

This year's Annual Report highlights some unexplained wealth results and benefits now being realised after years of investigation. As at 30 June 2022, there was \$10.9m in assets frozen as a result of the Commission's work, and \$1.7m in confiscation orders.

Other performance highlights for the year included:

- 54 days of examinations held involving 70 witnesses, to inform 14 serious misconduct and unexplained wealth investigations;
- 62 per cent of serious misconduct investigations completed within 12 months; and
- 38 reports issued to State Parliament, agencies and heads of agencies.

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Key highlights of the year included finalising investigations into the former Assistant Director General of the Department of Communities (who was sentenced in November 2021 to 12 years in prison after pleading guilty to more than 550 criminal charges); an investigation into the theft of more than \$54,000 by the former CEO of the Shire of Ravensthorpe (who was sentenced to one year imprisonment in August 2022); and biosecurity misconduct at Murdoch University.

A number of follow-up reviews were conducted by the Commission into the management of controlled drugs in WA hospitals and corruption within the WA prison system; with 10 reports tabled in Parliament and 28 reports provided directly to agency Directors and CEOs.

The Commission found there had been significant progress made within the WA prison system in relation to reinvigorated staff training, internal system upgrades and changes to policies and procedures. New measures were also introduced to improve the management of dangerous drugs across the entire WA Health service.

The Commission's 127-strong team are committed to working to reduce the incidence of serious misconduct and organised crime in Western Australia. During 2021-22, it made 10 recommendations (eight directly to Parliament) which were aimed at strengthening policies and procedures to reduce serious misconduct risks, as well as reviewing systems and data holdings to identify other areas of potential risk.

### **Read the Annual Report**

[Corruption and Crime Commission Annual Report 2021-22](#)

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