



MEDIA STATEMENT

CCC Annual Report tabled

26 September 2014

The Corruption and Crime Commission has for the third consecutive year recorded a substantial increase in the allegations it receives about misconduct by public officers.

The Commission assessed 7,260 allegations of misconduct and reviewable police action in 2013-14, compared to 6,148 the previous year. The complaints ranged from minor misconduct such as verbal abuse through to criminal offences such as stealing and fraud.

The Commission's 2013-14 annual report shows 17 people were convicted of 97 criminal offences during the year following CCC investigations. This was a 100% conviction rate.

The report, tabled in Parliament today, notes the long period without a permanent Commissioner has been difficult. Despite former Commissioner Roger Macknay QC giving five months' notice of his intent to retire before he left in April 2014, a new Commissioner is still not in prospect. "This extended interregnum is disruptive to the work of the Commission and is very challenging for the Acting Commissioners who have other professional responsibilities," it says.

Most of the thousands of allegations assessed by the Commission are referred to employer agencies to investigate and take internal disciplinary action - but the CCC actively monitors many of those agency investigations as part of its oversight role.

In 2013-14, it monitored 1,924 misconduct investigations and reviewed the investigative process and outcomes for 1,318 of those matters.

The Commission conducted its own investigations into 78 matters, including allegations of corrupt conduct, bribery, excessive use of force by police, fraud and conflicts of interest.

The Commission also stepped up its scrutiny of the Department of Corrective Services (DCS) by directing it to notify the CCC of all positive prisoner drug tests, contraband found in cells, unexplained assaults and unauthorised access to information, rather than only notifying incidents where there was direct evidence of involvement by a public officer.

"The focus of the Commission's strategy for the DCS is inappropriate relationships between criminal elements and prison officers and other DCS employees. In the Commission's view such relationships enable the introduction of contraband into prisons, assaults on prisoners and inappropriate access to, and disclosure of, information," the report says.

The directive resulted in 1,761 notifications relating to the DCS being assessed by the CCC in 2013-14, compared with 610 the previous year.

There were 57 days of private hearings for 22 separate matters, many of which are ongoing. This was more than double the number of hearing days the previous year.

The annual report can be accessed at www.ccc.wa.gov.au.

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