

MEDIA RELEASE

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An active year for the Commission, community and public sector agencies

The *Corruption and Crime Commission Annual Report 2018-19* has been tabled in State Parliament today.

The Annual Report shows a year characterised by a significant increase in allegations received from the community, a big increase in the number of Commission reports (45 in this reporting period compared to 13 the previous year); a significant number of recommendations to public sector agencies (46), and the commencement of the Commission's unexplained wealth function.

The vast majority of public servants, elected officials, and people or companies who interact or do business with them, are good, ethical people. However, a small number are not. Thanks to increasing vigilance, more Western Australians are speaking up about suspected corruption in the WA public sector.

The Commission assessed 5,036 allegations during 2018-19, consistent with the number of allegations (5,051) assessed in the previous reporting period. More than 40% of all allegations of serious misconduct (2,043) came from members of the public. This continues a very positive upward trend associated with the greater number of Commission reports produced, and the publicity and public interest they receive.

More than half the allegations assessed by the Commission (56%) related to the WA Police Force. This is to be expected given the inclusion of minor misconduct allegations – most WA Police Force allegations related to 'neglect of duty' or 'unprofessional conduct'.

Two categories attracting the highest number of allegations relating to other agencies during the year were 'using position for benefit or detriment' and the 'unlawful use of computer', reflecting the Commission's focus on these serious misconduct areas in the rest of the public sector.

Another key feature is the maturing of the Commission's oversight (monitor and review) function, which now represents a significant portion of the Commission's work. During the reporting period, 70 allegations were referred to an appropriate authority to be actively monitored and reviewed. Oversight is an effective method to build the capacity of the public sector to expose misconduct risks, especially when a public authority has an effective investigative unit.

Overall, the Commission's Annual Report reflects a very productive year:

- Assessments were completed within an average of 32 days, and more than half within less than that;
- 1,604 allegations were identified as potentially involving serious misconduct;
- 50 investigations were conducted;
- 29 Serious misconduct investigations were completed in an average of 309 days; and
- 45 reports were produced and 46 recommendations were made to public authorities.

Significant reports tabled during 2018-19 put a spotlight on:

- Bribery and corruption in maintenance and service contracts within North Metropolitan Health Service;
- Misconduct risks in WA prisons;
- Unauthorised release of confidential information of the Public Transport Authority;
- The WA Commissioner in Japan; and
- Serious misconduct in procurement of environmental services.

Download the Annual Report

- [*Corruption and Crime Commission Annual Report 2018-19.pdf*](#)

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