

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **A year of consolidation, innovation and improved efficiency**

The *Corruption and Crime Commission 2016-17 Annual Report* has been tabled in State Parliament, detailing a year that saw the consolidation of organisational changes, and innovation and improved efficiency at the Commission.

During 2016-17, the Commission conducted 71 investigations, including 18 in cooperation with other agencies. Eight reports were produced and 23 anti-corruption recommendations were made to public authorities.

Some key achievements in 2016-17 included:

- 2,425 notifications were received from public authorities and the community;
- from these notifications, 4,939 allegations were assessed with 1,976 of these allegations requiring further action;
- 94 per cent of notifications were assessed within three-months of being received; and
- improved efficiencies led to a significant decrease in the average time taken to complete an investigation – 297 days in 2016-17, down from 427 days in 2015-16.

The *CCM Act 2003* defines serious misconduct differently for the WA Police Force than other public officers. A lower threshold for serious misconduct is applied to police, and this was represented with over half of the allegations (2,637) received by the Commission relating to the WA Police Force.

Allegations into the WA Police Force resulted in 16 investigations (seven in cooperation with the WA Police Force) and 54 allegations referred back to the WA Police Force with active monitoring and oversight by the Commission.

Other features of the Annual Report revealed:

- a significant increase in the number of local government-related allegations – 550 in 2016-17, up from 325 in 2015-16;
- a significant increase in allegations of serious misconduct received from individuals – 1,388 in 2016-17, up from 973 in 2015-16; and
- 63 per cent of public sector allegations were categorised as a criminal nature (for example - assault, fraud, stealing, unlawful use of a computer).

As part of its commitment to being innovative and more accessible to the Western Australian Public, the Commission hosted a public examination in the Shire of Dowerin in regional Western Australia in 2016. This allowed witnesses and interested locals to hear first-hand about an important matter that directly impacted their community, with the benefit of not leaving the district.

The Commission also became the first anti-corruption agency in Australia to livestream a public examination in 2016, allowing public authorities and the wider community, to gain anti-corruption insights and learnings by conveniently viewing the examination via a computer or mobile device.

The Commission consolidated its organisational structure in 2016-17, and placed a greater emphasis on increasing its strategic intelligence capacity, through the establishment of a strategic intelligence team.

The strategic intelligence team looked at serious misconduct trends, environmental factors, patterns of behaviour - and what affect these have on serious misconduct and corruption in Western Australia. This intelligence enabled the Commission to proactively target corruption hot spots, and direct its resources and activities to areas that have the most impact in improving integrity within the Western Australian public sector.

Download the *Corruption and Crime Commission 2016-2017 Annual Report* at <https://www.ccc.wa.gov.au/annual-reports>

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