

## MEDIA RELEASE

8 October 2024

### Report on the Western Australian Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman)

A report by the Corruption and Crime Commission tabled in Parliament today outlines the Commission investigation into the conduct of the State's Ombudsman Mr Chris Field PSM.

The comprehensive investigation examined Mr Field's extensive overseas travel as President of the International Ombudsman's Institute.

It also examined his use of State Ombudsman staff for Institute affairs.

The report notes the Ombudsman did not seek approval for travel from the Premier. Instead he created a sham process within his office to approve his own international travel on behalf of the Institute.

In August 2023 Mr Field entered into a contract for €129,640 with the OECD for a scan survey to be conducted. No procurement process was undertaken. Mr Field later attempted to deceive the State Treasurer Ms Saffioti by creating a memorandum that contained falsehoods.

A finding or opinion that misconduct has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur is not, and is not to be taken as, a finding or opinion that a particular person is guilty of or has committed, is committing or is about to commit a criminal offence or disciplinary offence.

The report is available [here](#).

The Commission has recommended that Parliament consider establishing a joint standing committee and expanding the role of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission to provide oversight of the Ombudsman.

**ENDS**

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