

██████████ - Submission to the Review of the ACT's Integrity Commission Act 2018

Dear Mr Govey AM,

I make the following brief Submission and am happy to discuss matters with you or your representative(s).

1. Should the jurisdiction of the Integrity Commission be amended so that only matters which demonstrate serious or systemic corrupt conduct fall within its remit?

I do not support narrowing the Commission's jurisdiction. I believe that the current jurisdiction should be at least maintained to avoid a further decline in the community's trust in government.

If there is a case for widening the Commission's power, I think the wider power(s) should apply to the current jurisdiction. Indeed, it seems that raising the notion that any widening of the Commission's power necessitates a narrowing of its jurisdiction may be a deliberate move to achieve the latter.

I think the current jurisdiction (ie that covers all corrupt conduct, including systemic) should at least be maintained – so the Commission is potentially aware of all corrupt conduct. Relying on the Public Service, that is part of the Executive, to monitor and counter corrupt conduct involves an obvious potential conflict of interest.

2. I suggest that your Review undertake a 'compare and contrast' between the ACT Commission and similar bodies in other jurisdictions.

If this has already been completed by a reputable authority, I suggest that it be clearly referenced in your Report to assist the community.

I also suggest that if the Commission does not meet best practice that your Review make recommendations to put the ACT at the front if not ahead of best practice in countering corruption.

3. I suggest the Commission be better resourced than in its initial years.

It appears the Commission has been under-resourced. If so, that has a detrimental impact on its operations and effectiveness. I suggest that your Review examine past and relative resourcing of the Commission and recommend a permanent increase if the Commission's resourcing is found wanting.

Regards

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