

# The role of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption

Thirty November 2018 marked the establishment of the Office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC) in the Northern Territory.

Mr Ken Fleming QC was appointed as the ICAC in June 2018.

For some time, there has been a need to recognise and address improper conduct in the NT public sector. The appointment of the ICAC signifies a commitment to protect public interest with the focus to restore community confidence and drive system reform.

The ICAC serves to prevent corruption and guide the conduct of public officers, and will work closely with public bodies and the community to achieve this.

## ICAC powers and functions

The ICAC works independently from the direction of the NT Government and public sector.

The ICAC's role is not to settle disputes and disagreements, or appeal decisions made by the Courts. It investigates the most serious, sensitive and systemic corrupt conduct of public officers and public agencies. This includes Members of the Legislative Assembly, courts, tribunals, independent officers, and organisations and bodies who receive government resources through contracts and grants.

The ICAC does not prosecute but has wide-ranging powers to deal with

improper conduct, and respond to allegations accordingly. The ICAC can undertake inquiries on matters that happened in the past, and has powers to investigate without having to receive a report.

## Definitions of corruption, improper conduct

**Corruption** is the behaviour of a public officer or a public body that constitutes a criminal offence, and is connected to public affairs. Misuse of public resources, including fraud, falsifying documents, as well as accepting or requesting a bribe, are some examples of corruption.

Improper conduct includes corruption, but also unsatisfactory conduct and misconduct. If a public officer engaged in discrimination, bullying, harassment and assault, this would constitute improper conduct.

## Mandatory reporting

Public officers and public bodies must report reasonable suspicions of improper conduct, even if the matter has been reported to another public body or officer.

## Making a report

Any member of the public can report suspected improper conduct to the ICAC. In some cases, reporting is required by law.

All information is legally protected and treated with the strictest confidence.

Anonymous reports can be made,

however the ICAC will not be able to contact you to validate the information.

You can make a report by visiting [icac.nt.gov.au](https://icac.nt.gov.au) and completing an online form or calling 1800 250 918.

## The next steps of a report

When the ICAC receives your report, you will receive an email of acknowledgment followed by a letter if you have supplied your details.

You may be contacted for further information that will help to assess your report.

The ICAC will make every effort to respond to each report, however the ICAC will not provide timeframes of when people may receive information regarding their report.

## Contact information

 Freecall 1800 250 918

 [icac.nt@icac.nt.gov.au](mailto:icac.nt@icac.nt.gov.au)

 [icac.nt.gov.au](https://icac.nt.gov.au)

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# FACTSHEET

