

# The role of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption

The Office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC) was established on 30 November 2018.

The first Commissioner, Mr Ken Fleming QC was appointed in June 2018.

The second Commissioner, Mr Michael Riches, commenced in July 2021.

## Why have an ICAC?

For some time, there has been a need to recognise and address improper conduct in the NT public sector. Creation of the ICAC was intended to protect the public interest to restore community confidence and drive system reform.

The ICAC serves to prevent corruption and guide the conduct of public officers.

## ICAC powers and functions

The ICAC works independently from the direction of the NT Government.

The ICAC's role is not to settle disputes and disagreements, or to 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, organisations and bodies that receive government resources through contracts and grants.

The ICAC does not prosecute but has wide-ranging powers to deal with improper conduct. 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, and soliciting or accepting 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

All public officers and public bodies must report reasonable suspicions of improper conduct, in accordance with the Commissioner's Mandatory Reporting Guidelines and Directions, even if it has already been referred to the Ombudsman, the Auditor-General or the NT Police.

## Making a report

Any member of the public can report suspected improper conduct to the ICAC.

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.

## Next steps

If your report is not anonymous, you will receive written acknowledgement.

If you have supplied your contact details, you may be contacted for further information that could help assess the information you provided.

The ICAC will make every effort to respond to each report, however we will not provide timeframes of when people may receive information in respect to 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

