



13 March 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

ICAC Committee report released: Review of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Annual Reports of the ICAC

The ICAC would benefit from the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer, as provided for in the *Independent Commission Against Corruption (Amendment) Act 2016*.

This was a finding of the ICAC Committee's report reviewing the ICAC's 2014-15 and 2015-16 Annual Reports which was tabled in Parliament today.

"A Chief Executive Officer could manage day-to-day administrative matters across ICAC's various divisions" said Committee Chair, Mr Damien Tudehope MP. "This would free its Commissioners to focus on their important statutory duties".

Legislative amendments allowing the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer came into force in August 2017 but the ICAC has so far deferred the appointment.

The Committee's report also details a major project the ICAC has commenced to develop its proactive investigation capacity. To date, the ICAC has mainly pursued investigations reactively, in response to complaints and notifications of alleged corrupt conduct. The project will see the ICAC pursue a more intelligence-based proactive model of investigation.

"We will monitor progress on the development of ICAC's proactive investigation capacity with interest" said Mr Tudehope. "And to foster further oversight, the Committee has recommended that ICAC report annually on the number of inquiries it starts on its own initiative, versus the number started in response to complaints of alleged corruption".

The Committee also has ongoing concerns about unauthorised disclosure of confidential information during ICAC investigations. It has therefore recommended that the ICAC start reporting annually on the number of unauthorised disclosures made in the reporting year (of which the ICAC has become aware), and the details of any action it has taken in response.

Other significant issues discussed in the report are:

- The ICAC's implementation of process changes following the *Independent Commission Against Corruption (Amendment) Act 2016* coming into force;
- A review of statistics around complaints to the ICAC and decisions to investigate;
- An examination of time targets for the ICAC to investigate complaints made to it.

For media comment, please contact Damien Tudehope MP on (02) 9877 0266. A copy of the report can be found at the inquiry webpage:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2465>.