

Mr Jason Li, MP
Chairman
Parliamentary Joint Committee on the ICAC

By email: icaccommittee@parliament.nsw.gov.au

24 January 2024

Our Ref: Z23/0148

Dear Mr Li,

I refer to my appearance before the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption on 11 December 2023.

Among other things, the Committee sought information about the Commission's witness welfare initiatives and in particular, you raised concerns about the suicide of witnesses who were members of the Australian Chinese community and associated cultural sensitivities. As explained in my evidence to the Committee, the Commission is currently implementing the recommendations made by the Inspector in her *Special Report 2023/01: Audit of the welfare of witnesses and other people involved in ICAC investigations*.

The Commission shares your concerns and wishes to inform the Committee of some additional work that it is proposing.

Firstly, our corruption prevention and strategic intelligence staff have been requested to conduct some further research into culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities who might be affected by the Commission's work.

The work is in its early stages but it could result in:

- new Commission resources and education initiatives tailored for CALD communities
- enhancements to material on our website
- improvements to the Commission's internal processes.

We have also commenced discussions with groups such as Multicultural NSW and the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW to ensure our work is informed by the best possible advice.

Secondly, the Commission is concerned about some of the grooming practices identified in the Commission's recent reports known as Operation Galley and Operation Tolosa. As I mentioned in my evidence, the conduct exposed by the Commission included the provision of hospitality, travel and accommodation aimed at corrupting NSW local councillors.

Our intention is to conduct some further research into the prevalence and nature of grooming practices, with a view to developing some better practice guidance for public officials.

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If you or other Committee members have any views about this proposed work, I would be very happy to meet with you in person

Yours sincerely,



The Hon John Hatzistergos AM
Chief Commissioner

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