



About the Integrity Commission

The Integrity Commission is an independent body established to raise the standard of conduct, ethics and propriety in public authorities, including State and local government.

Who we are

The independent Integrity Commission was established by the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* and started operation on 1 October 2010.

The Tasmanian Parliament passed the Act in November 2009 and was the outcome of recommendations made by the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Ethical Conduct. A key focus of the Act is to promote and enhance standards of ethical conduct by public officers through the establishment of the Commission.

The Commission consists of a Chief Commissioner and six Board members, a statutorily appointed Chief Executive Officer and staff who undertake the various functions of the Commission. The Board provides oversight and guidance to the Chief Executive Officer and staff of the Commission, promotes good practice and systems, and monitors and reports on the operation and effectiveness of the Integrity Commission Act 2009.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible to the Board for the general administration, management and operations of the Commission. Staff roles include:

- ▼ investigation
- ▼ complaint assessment and investigation review
- ▼ misconduct prevention, education and research
- ▼ strategic communications and
- ▼ business services.



“Ethical conduct is a cornerstone of a reliable system of government and is fundamental to our wellbeing.”

*Hon Murray Kellam AO
inaugural Integrity Commission Chief Commissioner 2010-2015*

Aims

The main aims of the Integrity Commission are to:

- ▼ improve the standard of conduct, propriety and ethics in public authorities in Tasmania
- ▼ enhance public confidence that any misconduct by public officers will be appropriately investigated and dealt with, and
- ▼ enhance the quality of, and commitment to, ethical conduct by public officers through education, prevention and advice.

What the Integrity Commission does

The Integrity Commission has a strong educative and training role and develops standards and guidelines to assist public officers in performing their duties in an ethical manner. The Commission may also provide confidential advice to public officers about the practical implementation of standards of conduct in specific circumstances.

The Commission accepts complaints about possible misconduct by public officers. Complaints are also accepted about 'designated public officers' who can include Members of Parliament, Parliamentary staff, local government councillors, statutory officers, high ranking police officers and senior executive officers.

A complaint may be dismissed if it is not about the kind of behaviour that is defined as "misconduct" under the Act or, for a number of other reasons, including that it might be dealt with in another forum.

The Integrity Commission can address complaints in a range of ways. For example, we may ask the relevant public sector agency or another integrity body (such as the Ombudsman, State Service Commissioner or Auditor-General) to investigate the matter and report back to us, or we may investigate the complaint ourselves.

Parliamentary Standards Commissioner

The Integrity Commissioner Act 2009 also established the role of the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, which is independent of the Commission.

The Parliamentary Standards Commissioner provides confidential advice to Members of Parliament and the Integrity Commission about conduct, propriety and ethics and the interpretation of any relevant codes of conduct and guidelines relating to the conduct of Members of Parliament.



The Commission can help

We are available to provide support and assistance with identifying, reporting, investigating, managing and preventing misconduct: prevention@integrity.tas.gov.au or 1300 720 289.

For more Integrity Commission resources go to www.integrity.tas.gov.au/resources