

# INTEGRITY MATTERS



## From the Chief Executive Officer

A warm welcome to the many new readers who recently subscribed to *Integrity Matters*. It is heartening to see such strong interest in our work supporting the public sector manage and prevent misconduct.

In this edition we share the findings of own-motion Investigation Fisher, provide an update on our review of lobbying oversight, the rollout of our online module *Integrity in Public Service*, and invite you to register for the 2022 Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference to be held next month.

## Featured News - Own-motion Investigation Fisher



The misconduct risks posed by links between councillors and property developers were highlighted in the findings of own-motion Investigation Fisher, tabled in Parliament late last month. This investigation was undertaken by the Commission following a referral from the Office of Local Government and examined the relationship between a former councillor at Derwent Valley Council, Paul Belcher, and Roostam Sadri, a property developer. The investigation found that, as a councillor, Mr Belcher agitated for Mr Sadri's interests and pressured council employees, while Mr Belcher had a personal and financial association with Mr Sadri. Our investigation identified breaches of the *Local Government Act 1993* which led to Mr Belcher being prosecuted in Magistrates Court.

We have published a [research report](#) alongside the [investigation report](#) with legislative reform recommendations to address identified loopholes. Recommendations include that the Tasmanian Government extend campaign funding disclosure requirements to all local government candidates, not just sitting candidates. Tasmania is the only Australian state that does not require all candidates standing in local government elections to disclose the source of campaign funds. Another recommendation is ensuring that both financial and non-financial interests are routinely and actively disclosed. All jurisdictions except Tasmania have personal interest disclosure schemes for councillors. There is no reason to exclude councillors from this requirement, and own-motion investigation Fisher shows the risks in doing so.

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## Lobbying Oversight Review

The public consultation into Tasmania's lobbying oversight system closed in July with the Commission receiving a total of 28 submissions - 21 public and identified, 5 public and anonymous, and two confidential. We appreciate the time and expertise that went into preparing these submissions. They are now [published on our website](#), along with a [summary report](#) that draws out key themes. All input received will inform our final report and recommendations, which we aim to make publicly available in late 2022.

## Register of Lobbyists and the Lobbying Code of Conduct

On 1 July Tasmania's existing lobbying oversight system successfully transferred from the Department of Premier and Cabinet to the Commission. On our website you will find the [Register of Lobbyists](#) and [Lobbying Code of Conduct](#). Both will be maintained and administered in their current form until July 2023 when we hope to commence implementing the new framework.

## Integrity in Public Service online training



In August 2021, our new online training program, *Integrity in Public Service*, was launched and, as of the start of this month, 1911 participants from 22 organisations had completed the module. Topics covered include *Pride in Public Service*, *the Role of the Integrity Commission*, *Good Decision-making*, and *Misconduct Risks*.

The module is interactive and alters based on an individual's role and organisation. Scenarios relevant to particular occupations are presented to help work through how to manage misconduct risks including conflicts of interest, misuse of information, and misuse of resources.

The course is being continuously improved based on feedback. In recent participant surveys 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had increased their understanding and awareness of misconduct risks in their role, and 95% agreed or strongly agreed that they were confident to apply what they had learned in their workplace.

The *Integrity in Public Service* online module is currently offered to organisations as an introduction to the core concepts of integrity in public service. Following completion of the module, organisations can then work with us to build on this knowledge through face-to-face and remote tailored training.

To discuss training needs please email our education and training team at [training@integrity.tas.gov.au](mailto:training@integrity.tas.gov.au)

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## **Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference 2022**

Registrations are open for the 2022 Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference (APSACC), which will run from 15-17 November. The Commission is proud to partner in Australia's leading anti-corruption event. The conference includes plenary sessions, discussion panels, and workshops and can be attended virtually or in person in Sydney. I will be presenting alongside Dr. Benjamin Marx (NSW ICAC) and Tracey Polmear (WA CCC) on 'Working productively with integrity agencies' on November 17. To register, or find out more, [visit the APSACC website](#).

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## **More information**

For more information on the Integrity Commission and our work in misconduct prevention, education, research, and investigation visit [www.integrity.tas.gov.au](http://www.integrity.tas.gov.au)

For advice and support, contact the Prevention team at [prevention@integrity.tas.gov.au](mailto:prevention@integrity.tas.gov.au) or call 1300 720 289.



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1300 720 289

***We live and work on lutruwita land, sea and waterways.***

***We acknowledge with respect the Palawa people.***

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