



# POWER AND AUTHORITY and CONFLICT OF INTEREST

## Business opportunity for partner

A senior employee has knowledge of a business opportunity for their partner's business. What happens next?

### The story

It was alleged that a senior employee of the then Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Department) had engaged in serious corrupt conduct by improperly using their position to provide business opportunities for their partner. It was also alleged the employee had an undeclared financial interest in their partner's private business.

Once the employee's conduct was raised with the Department by industry stakeholders, the Department acted swiftly to alert IBAC and promptly complied with IBAC's requests for information.

IBAC commenced Operation Carson in June 2016, and used a range of investigation powers to conduct the investigation.

### What were the outcomes?

Although the employee resigned while under investigation, IBAC substantiated allegations they provided preferential access and treatment to their partner. IBAC also established the employee and their partner were engaged in a private business that had not been declared to the agency.

The employee sought to exploit the knowledge and networks they had developed through their public sector employment to further their business interests. The employee failed to declare their conflicts of interest and did not act in the public interest.

*With thanks to Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC), Victoria*

## Questions

1. List all of the ethical issues around this situation.
  - ▽
  - ▽
  - ▽
2. What are the vulnerabilities, or misconduct risks, associated with each issue?
  - ▽
  - ▽
  - ▽
3. What prevention measures could be put in place to prevent this from recurring?
  - ▽
  - ▽
  - ▽



### 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](mailto:prevention@integrity.tas.gov.au) or 1300 720 289.

For more Integrity Commission resources go to [www.integrity.tas.gov.au/resources](http://www.integrity.tas.gov.au/resources)