



Getting a kick out of purchasing

The story

Belinda is the purchasing officer in a state government organisation. She has been regularly purchasing stationery and office equipment from a particular supplier.

Belinda is a family friend of the supplier's Account Manager, Ben, and she began purchasing from him as a favour when he first started working for the supplier. Ben was keen to make a good impression in his new role by getting a large state government client on board.

Belinda's husband operates a family business from home and Ben often gives the family free printing cartridges, paper and other items to help out with the business and keep printing costs down.

- 1. What are the ethical issues in this situation?**
- 2. What part of the ethical framework failed?**
- 3. What strategies could be implemented to prevent this in the future?**

The information used in this scenario is not factual – we created it for education and discussion. Any likeness to actual persons or events is coincidental.

Questions – Facilitator copy

1. What are the ethical issues in this situation?

- ▽ Undisclosed gifts and benefits.
- ▽ Conflict of interest.

2. What part of the ethical framework failed?

- ▽ Lack of communication, management and auditing provided an environment that allowed misconduct to go undetected.
- ▽ A culture where gifts and benefits were regularly accepted and not disclosed or recorded.
- ▽ Purchasing officer not adequately managed.
- ▽ A lack of accountability.

3. What strategies could be implemented to prevent this in the future?

- ▽ Disclose and record all gifts and benefits received on a gifts register in accordance with the agency's gifts and benefits policy.
- ▽ Management should review the gifts register regularly and determine any trends or items of concern.



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 Misconduct Prevention resources go to www.integrity.tas.gov.au/resources