

What is corruption and why is it important?

Corruption causes immense harm to people and government, and it's never a victimless crime. In recognition of Corruption Awareness Week 2022, we have answered your questions about how to identify corruption and why it's important.

What is corruption?

Corruption can take many different forms and includes a range of different behaviours. However, corrupt conduct generally occurs when a public official misuses or abuses their entrusted powers.



What is a public official?

A public official is someone who performs duties on behalf of the government or someone who holds a public office. In the ACT, that includes all ACTPS staff as well as members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff.

Why would someone act corruptly?

Individuals usually engage in corruption to gain a benefit. This can be financial, political, personal, or even professional. Vulnerabilities like financial or domestic hardship may also contribute to corrupt behaviour.

What does corruption look like?

The signs of corruption will differ depending on the type of conduct. However, there are warning signs that something is not quite right.



The 'red flags' below are indicators of potentially corrupt behaviour:

- Poor record keeping
- Excessive or unnecessary secrecy
- Unwilling to share duties or take leave
- Dishonesty
- Unreliability
- Accepting and giving gifts
- Rule breaking
- Excess
- Working around the rules
- Encouraging rule breaking by colleagues
- Performing duties outside their position description
- Non reporting of misconduct
- Bullying
- Living a lifestyle inconsistent with known income
- Failure to declare a conflict of interest
- Failure to disclose a declarable association

What should you do if you spot corruption?

It is important to never ignore potential corruption.

Report it to the ACT Integrity Commission or ask your supervisor for guidance. It is important to speak up and always act with integrity to prevent corruption.

To report suspected corrupt conduct, please visit
<https://report.integrity.act.gov.au/>

All reports are assessed and taken seriously – we all have a role to play in stopping corruption in its track.

The image features a background with a light grey gradient at the top, a white central area, and a teal gradient at the bottom. A large, stylized number '7' is formed by overlapping white and grey shapes. The ACT Integrity Commission logo is centered in the white area.

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For more information
integrity.act.gov.au