



Video Transcript

What is Corruption?

Globally, corruption is pervasive.

If left unchecked, it can cause significant damage to public services and government.

Globally, corruption costs trillions of dollars every year.

But what is corruption? How does it happen? And why should you care?

Corruption occurs when an official or a representative of a government misuses or abuses the powers that are afforded to them.

Officials have many duties including:

- Deciding how to spend public money and providing advice to government;
- Ensuring community health and safety;
- Issuing qualifications, licences, fines and penalties; and approving or rejecting applications;
- Collecting, accessing, and using sensitive and confidential information; and
- ensuring the delivery of government functions like corrective services meets community expectations.

Officials are trusted to deliver essential services for the community and we expect them to act with integrity at all times.

Unfortunately some officials take advantage of their positions and authority usually for a personal benefit for themselves or someone else.

This could look like:

- An official giving a government contract to a friend instead of the company that offered the best value for money;
- An official accepting money in exchange for a licence approval;
- A prison officer providing contraband to detainees;
- or an official committing theft, fraud or other criminal behaviours in connection with their official duties.



The ACT Integrity Commission was established to identify, expose, and prevent corruption in the ACT, and you can help.

If you suspect serious or systemic corruption by an official, make a report to integrity.act.gov.au. Report it so we can sort it.