

An initiative for Corruption Awareness Week 2023

Every report matters: A guide to the ACT Integrity Commission's assessment processes

Did you know that every corruption report (or allegation of potential corruption) received by the ACT Integrity Commission (ACTIC) is assessed. At the ACTIC, we acknowledge that reporting can at times take courage, and we thoroughly consider every report we receive. However, the *Integrity Commission Act 2018* (IC Act) requires that matters involving allegations of serious or systemic corrupt conduct be given investigation priority.

For Corruption Awareness Week 2023, the ACTIC is focusing on 'myth-busting' common misconceptions about the agency and its work. We understand people can be disheartened about the assessment outcome of their report, or are concerned that nothing will happen if they do make a report to us. This resource has been designed to illustrate our process and steps we may take to ensure your report is properly dealt with. Each of the below infographics is a hypothetical example of a corruption report and how the ACTIC may use its powers under the IC Act.

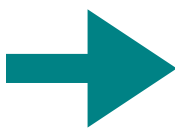
Example 1: A dismissed report

The IC Act outlines when a report must be dismissed - including if it is out of our jurisdiction. In those circumstances, Section 71(4) of the IC Act allows ACTIC to 'give' a matter to another agency if that agency has the power to investigate the subject matter.



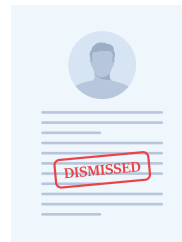
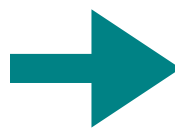
Received

A report is received from an ACT community member alleging serious corrupt conduct by an ACT Policing officer.



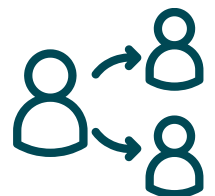
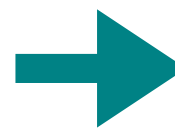
Assessed

The ACTIC assesses the report and concludes that the allegation is not in jurisdiction.



Dismissed

The report is dismissed as ACT Policing is a community policing branch of the AFP and therefore a federal agency.



Given

The ACTIC 'gives' the report to the National Anti-Corruption Commission as they have the power to investigate federal agencies. This ensures the matter isn't ignored.

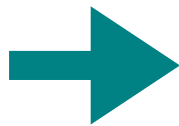
Example 2: A referred report

The IC Act outlines reasons for reports to be referred to another entity. Section 107 requires that both the ACTIC and the referral entity must have the power to investigate the matter and that the ACTIC considers it would be more appropriate for the report to be investigated by the referral entity. This could include a report that doesn't amount to serious or systemic corruption. Section 108 outlines that the ACTIC may ask the referral entity for a written report about the results of the investigation or any action taken in relation to the report.



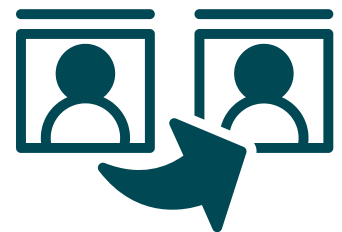
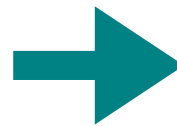
Received

A report is received alleging low-level corrupt conduct by an employee at an ACT Government agency.



Assessed

The ACTIC assesses the report and concludes that corrupt conduct may have occurred, yet at a low-level. The ACTIC could investigate this, however the ACTIC prioritises serious and system corruption. A decision is made to refer it to another entity.

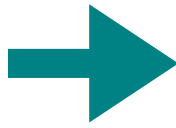


Referred

The ACTIC refers the report to the Public Sector Standards Commissioner. It is at their discretion to investigate or not.

Example 3: A preliminary inquiry of a report

The ACTIC, under Section 86 of the IC Act can commence a preliminary inquiry into a report received if more information is required to decide whether to dismiss, refer or investigate a matter. Sometimes initial reports received by the ACTIC do not contain enough detail, so this section allows the ACTIC to use its powers to obtain more information.



Received

A report is received alleging corrupt conduct by a person being contracted to the ACT Government, to exercise a function of a public sector entity.

Assessed

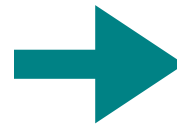
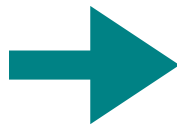
The ACTIC assesses the report and concludes that the allegations may amount to corrupt conduct, yet further information is required to decide to dismiss, refer or investigate the matter.

Preliminary Inquiry

A decision is made to begin a preliminary inquiry. The ACTIC uses powers to gather further information. After the preliminary inquiry, the ACTIC can decide to investigate or dismiss.

Example 4: An investigation of a report

Under Section 100 of the IC Act the ACTIC can commence an investigation if it suspects on reasonable grounds that the alleged conduct may constitute corrupt conduct.



Received

A report is received alleging serious and systemic corrupt conduct by a member of the ACTPS.

Assessed

The ACTIC assesses the report and suspects on reasonable grounds that the alleged conduct may constitute corrupt conduct. The allegation regards an MLA which is in the ACTIC's jurisdiction.

Investigated

A decision is made to investigate the matter. The ACTIC uses investigative powers to gather further evidence and may then make findings and recommendations.

The assessment officers at the ACTIC work hard to ensure every report received is properly assessed and a decision made to dismiss, refer or investigate the matter.