

# INTEGRITY COMMISSION



Our ref: AD000380

18 October 2013

Dr David Worth  
Principal Research Officer  
Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption  
and Crime Commission  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Dr Worth

## Re: Inquiry into the role played by the CCC in the Integrity Co-ordinating Group

On 29 August 2013, the Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee, the Hon Nick Goiran MLC wrote to the Chief Commissioner of the Tasmanian Integrity Commission, the Hon Murray Kellam AO, seeking advice on what arrangements the Commission had, if any, with other agencies such as the Ombudsman, the Auditor-General and the Public Service Commissioner (like entities being represented on the WA Integrity Co-ordinating Group). I am responding on behalf of the Chief Commissioner. I apologise for the delay.

Under the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* (Tas), a Board of the Commission is established.

The role of the Board, is to:

- (a) ensure that the chief executive officer and the staff of the Integrity Commission perform their functions and exercise their powers in accordance with sound public administration practice and principles of procedural fairness and the objectives of this Act; and
- (b) promote an understanding of good practice and systems in public authorities in order to develop a culture of integrity, propriety and ethical conduct in those public authorities and their capacity to deal with allegations of misconduct; and
- (c) monitor and report to the Minister or Joint Committee or both the Minister and Joint Committee on the operation and effectiveness of this Act and other legislation relating to the operations of integrity entities in Tasmania.

Under the Act, both the Ombudsman and the Auditor-General are ex-officio members of the Board. Until 4 February 2013 (when the position was abolished), the Tasmanian State Service Commissioner was also an ex-officio member. The reason for including these 'integrity entities' on the Board was two-fold – to put the Commission at the centre of Tasmanian public sector ethical structures without displacing the skills and expertise of the

Ombudsman, Auditor-General and State Service Commissioner in their specific fields and also to ensure that the Commission would not duplicate the work of those entities.

Therefore the principal interaction between the Commission and the integrity entities is via their membership of the Board and their contribution to its functions.

Additionally, the CEO of the Integrity Commission, the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and the Commissioner for Children meet informally quarterly to discuss issues of mutual interest. All participants appreciate the collegiate discussion of their similar work and the opportunity to identify common concerns. Common training and development needs of staff can also be identified and solutions pursued.

Some of these entities are also exploring the possibility of future co-location to make more efficient use of resources, including 'back office' support.

However the 'group' has no formal name or structure; nor does it produce any joint material or make any joint public statements.

I trust that the Committee finds this information useful in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely



**Diane Merryfull**

Chief Executive Officer