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Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity: Inquiry into the expansion of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity's jurisdiction and the corruption vulnerabilities of law enforcement agencies' contracted services

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law and Enforcement Integrity regarding the Inquiry into the expansion of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity's (ACLEI) jurisdiction and the corruption vulnerabilities of law enforcement agencies' contracted services.

ACIC & ACLEI

The ACIC falls under the jurisdiction of the Integrity Commissioner. The ACIC works closely with ACLEI in relation to proactively identifying and notifying corruption allegations and providing intelligence, information and investigations support in joint operations as agreed through a memorandum of understanding with ACLEI.

Corruption vulnerabilities of law enforcement agencies' contracted services

Whilst the ACIC recognises there are potential issues in contracting external parties, the agency has a framework of controls in place to mitigate these risks.

Consultants and contractors are engaged under section 48(1) of the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002* (the Act). The engagement of external providers under this section of the Act, engages them as ACIC members of staff for the period of their engagement and subjects them to the secrecy provision in section 51 of the Act and also the jurisdiction of ACLEI.

Consultants and contractors are not granted ICT system access or a physical access pass until they have been subject to and pass an ACIC Organisational Suitability Assessment and are escorted at all times while on ACIC premises until these clearances are obtained. They must also be assessed to meet the ACIC's security requirements.

Internally, the following systems are in place within the ACIC to identify, report and investigate potential corruption issues involving external service providers;

- An internal integrity intelligence capability (for internal intelligence collection and to support joint operations including with ACLEI).
- An internal integrity investigations capability (for internal criminal and special investigations and to support joint operations including with ACLEI).
- A centralised corruption reporting function through the ACIC's Integrity Intelligence team.
- The collection and recording of integrity reporting.
- Notification to ACLEI of integrity issues through the centralised corruption reporting model.

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Conclusion

The ACIC notes it is very unlikely the expansion of ACLEI will undermine current integrity measures undertaken by the agency. The ACIC has robust control measures in place to mitigate corruption risks. These are monitored continuously and revised to ensure they remain effective.

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