

Establishment of a National Integrity Commission

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the
Establishment of a National Integrity
Commission
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600

I make this submission to the Senate Select Committee on the Establishment of a National Integrity Commission on behalf of the Science Party Australia.

The jurisdiction of the NSW ICAC extends to all NSW public sector agencies (except the NSW Police Force) and employees, including government departments, local councils, members of Parliament, ministers, the judiciary and the governor. The ICAC's jurisdiction also extends to those performing public official functions. The NSW ICAC has done an excellent job in investigating many activities which are against the public interest. It has also uncovered many issues that although Legal were clearly in a conflict of interest to the public.

Under Operation Spicer, the NSW ICAC is investigating allegations that certain members of parliament and others corruptly solicited, received and concealed payments from various sources in return for certain members of parliament and others favouring the interests of those responsible for the payments. It is also alleged that certain members of parliament and others solicited and failed to disclose political donations from companies, including prohibited donors, contrary to the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981.

Australia has a desperate need for a similar corruption body to be established to give oversight of federal members of parliament, ministers, the judiciary and the Governor General. It should also be expanded to look into the financial industry and banks.

There is a perception by the community that some political parties, politicians and public officials are have a conflict of interest, which results in big business and those who can afford big donations, secret or otherwise, getting preferential treatment.

A federal ICAC would reduce the potential for corrupt behaviour and keep our country as one of the few places where corruption at all levels does not flourish.

Brendan Clarke (Candidate for Berowra)

On behalf of Science Party

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