



THE SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON A NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION

MEDIA RELEASE

13 September 2017

Senate Select Committee recommends strengthening of national integrity framework

A Senate Select Committee today recommended that Australia's national integrity framework be strengthened, following a seven-month inquiry into the adequacy of federal integrity arrangements.

The Senate Select Committee on a National Integrity Commission's report outlines current integrity and anti-corruption measures at federal and state levels, and considers a range of arguments for and against a national integrity commission.

The Committee found that the current framework is complex and poorly understood, making it difficult for complainants to navigate. It recommended the Federal Government prioritise strengthening the national integrity framework to make it more coherent, comprehensible and accessible.

Some stakeholders argued for a national integrity commission while others argued that such an agency was not needed. The Committee recommended the Federal Government carefully consider establishing a Commonwealth agency with broad scope and jurisdiction to address integrity and corruption matters.

The Committee also considered a range of issues relevant to the establishment of a national integrity commission, including the powers, jurisdiction, resourcing and oversight of such an agency. It acknowledged work currently under way as part of the government's Open Government Partnership commitments as well as an Australian Research Council Linkage Project being conducted by Griffith University, Flinders University, the University of the Sunshine Coast, Transparency International Australia, the NSW Ombudsman, the Queensland Integrity Commissioner and the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission.

This work will inform the future direction of integrity and anti-corruption measures in the Commonwealth public sector and help the government in its deliberations. Further information on the inquiry, including a full copy of the Committee's report is available on the Committee website at

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/National_Integrity_Commission.

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