

# Evaluation of the Practices, Policies and Procedures of Professional Development Funds for Medical Officers

**24 November 2025**

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) is evaluating the Department for Health and Wellbeing, the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN) and the Women’s and Children’s Health Network (WCHN) in relation to the management of professional development funds.

Medical officers (a term to describe a broad range of doctors) in South Australia’s public health system are eligible to be reimbursed for their professional development expenses, up to a cap as determined by the relevant Enterprise Agreement.

For example, an eligible Consultant is currently entitled to access a reimbursement of up to \$22,000 per annum for professional development expenses.

“Investing in medical officers’ professional development is critical to maintaining a world-class public health system,” Commissioner Emma Townsend said.

“Our objective is to inspect the guardrails currently in place to minimise the risk of this funding being misused or vulnerable to corrupt conduct.”

An evaluation is not an investigation of individual conduct. It allows ICAC to examine a public authority’s practices, policies and procedures, highlighting those which properly safeguard against corruption and identifying any weaknesses or opportunities for improvement.

The evaluation’s terms of reference are to review and report on:

1. the Department for Health and Wellbeing’s policies and procedures in respect of the management of professional development funds for medical officers
2. the practices of SALHN and WCHN in respect to administering professional development funds
3. the extent to which these practices, policies and procedures effectively manage the risks of corruption.

If you would like to share information relevant to the scope of this evaluation, please contact [evaluation@icac.sa.gov.au](mailto:evaluation@icac.sa.gov.au).

ICAC will submit a final evaluation report to SA Parliament next year. This report will also be made available on the Commission's [website](#).

For media enquiries, contact [media@icac.sa.gov.au](mailto:media@icac.sa.gov.au) or 0428 389 493.