ICAC Independent Commission Against Corruption South Australia

FACT SHEET
EVALUATIONS

One of the objectives of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012* (SA) (**ICAC Act**) is to prevent or minimise corruption in South Australian public administration. The evaluation of an agency's practices, policies and procedures is an effective way of assisting the agency to minimise its risks of corruption.

What is an evaluation?

The purpose of an evaluation is to improve an agency's systems to assist it in guarding against corruption. It involves the Independent Commission Against Corruption (**ICAC**) evaluating an agency's practices, policies and procedures to ensure they are effective, and making recommendations for change where appropriate.

Why is the Department for Infrastructure and Transport being evaluated?

There has been considerable public discourse and community concern regarding the potential for corrupt activity to occur within South Australia's major infrastructure projects, including in relation to organised crime. These concerns exist against a backdrop of serious allegations and findings in other jurisdictions.

The Commissioner therefore considered it timely for ICAC to support the Department for Infrastructure and Transport to identify potential corruption risks and strengthen its existing controls if necessary.

The evaluation will focus specifically on the T2D Project. It is expected that many of the project findings will have broader applicability to other major infrastructure projects.

Is an evaluation an investigation?

An evaluation is not an investigation or a 'corruption probe'. An evaluation does not examine the specific conduct of any person.

Where an evaluation identifies conduct that may require investigation, that conduct will be dealt with separately and in accordance with the applicable legislation.

How long does an evaluation take?

It is difficult to predict how long an evaluation will take. However, the intention is always to complete an evaluation in as timely a manner as possible.

How is an evaluation conducted?

An evaluation begins with a clear definition of its scope, which will be published.

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ICAC's evaluation team will then commence the process of understanding the agency's operations insofar as they are relevant to the evaluation. This involves collecting documents that relate to an agency's practices, policies and procedures and talking to staff.

Submissions may be invited from relevant parties.

The evaluation will conclude with the delivery of a report to Parliament.

How can I get involved?

If you would like to share information relevant to the scope of this evaluation, submissions can be provided to the evaluation team by emailing ditevaluation@icac.sa.gov.au.

If you are an employee of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, you may be invited to an interview with the evaluation team. Please do not be alarmed if you are contacted for interview. The purpose of the interview is to help the team understand the Department's activities, policies and practices, and hear your views about what is working well, and what could be improved.

Is an evaluation secret?

Evaluations are often conducted by way of a public inquiry. In these cases, submissions may be invited from members of the public and information collected during the evaluation may be published. The fact that the evaluation is occurring has been publicly announced by ICAC.

Information gathered in the course of an evaluation can only be made public by ICAC. Section 54 of the ICAC Act prevents any other person from disclosing information that they have received knowing that it is connected to an evaluation unless the disclosure is authorised by the ICAC Act or ICAC.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

If you have any questions about the evaluation, please contact ICAC's DIT evaluation team at: ditevaluation@icac.sa.gov.au.

Where can I get support?

Involvement in ICAC activities may be uncomfortable and stressful for some individuals.

You can contact the ICAC Witness Welfare Officer by email: **witnesssupport@icac.sa.gov.au** or on 08 8463 5161. Alternatively, you may wish to seek assistance from your registered health provider (GP), workplace Employee Assistance Provider, a private psychologist or the Mental Health Triage Service (13 14 65).