ICAC fifth Integrity State report highlights lessons learned from corruption investigations

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The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has today released its fifth Integrity State report, identifying the misuse of information relating to National Disability Insurance Scheme (**NDIS**) clients as a significant corruption risk.

The report, titled *Integrity State 2025-26: Lessons Learned from Corruption Investigations*, brings together recommendations from 11 prevention letters that ICAC has issued to address corruption risks identified through its investigative work.

The report reveals that ICAC has investigated allegations of people accessing information about NDIS clients through their work, and then improperly using that information for personal gain.

"We have investigated allegations that public officers are referring people to NDIS service providers that they own, or in which they have an interest," ICAC Commissioner Emma Townsend said.

"This is an emerging area of concern, highlighting that public officers responsible for allocating funds – including the awarding of paid work to service providers – can be vulnerable to improper influence."

"The misuse of information in relation to NDIS clients is particularly serious because it can directly impact the support available to often vulnerable people who rely on these services."

"Protecting these resources and ensuring they reach those for whom they are intended is essential."

The report identifies two further key areas of corruption risk across the public sector: procurement and recruitment, along with misuse of public assets and resources.

"This report shows that conflicts of interest in procurement and recruitment remain an ongoing issue within the public sector,' Commissioner Townsend said.

"These processes often have substantial public expenditure and a degree of discretion in decision-making that can create significant corruption risks.

"The message is clear - if you are a public officer in any way involved with a business tendering for government work, you should declare a conflict of interest. If you have a relationship with someone applying for a role, you should declare a conflict of interest. All conflicts must be effectively managed and reviewed by a separate person."

While the prevention letters in the report relate to specific circumstances, the lessons have broader application.

"The agencies named in the report have all taken steps to respond to ICAC's recommendations, and have demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement and strengthening integrity," Commissioner Townsend said.

"I encourage all agencies to use these learnings to assess the effectiveness of their own processes and controls and to identify opportunities for improvement."

The Integrity State report is available on the ICAC website.

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