

## Conclusion

Local communities should expect that their council operates properly and that the officers charged to work for their benefit in local councils are trustworthy.

South Australians should also be rightly concerned about the misappropriation of funds by an individual that should have otherwise been directed towards the provision of high quality vocational education and training.

The two public officers examined in this report committed long, substantial and debilitating offences against their agencies, colleagues and the community at large.

While their conduct is not reflective of the vast majority of public officers, vigilance must be maintained.

Agencies should not underestimate the harm that arises from the improper conduct of a trusted insider. All agencies should review their integrity processes and controls.

While much can be done by agencies to reduce the opportunities for corruption, public officers also need to actively consider their own ethical standing and decision-making. The burden of protecting against corruption falls on agency and public officer alike.