



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Commissioner

Ref: 26#11454DOC

25 May 2026

Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Government House
Dunrossil Drive
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Your Excellency,

Resignation – National Anti-Corruption Commissioner

I write pursuant to section 249 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth), to resign my appointment as National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, with effect from 6 July 2026.

It has been a privilege to serve for what will have been 3 years as the inaugural National Anti-Corruption Commissioner.

I have decided that it is time, now that the Commission is established and functioning with quality staff and sound processes, to step aside and allow a new Commissioner to lead it into the next phase of its development into a key and respected component of the integrity architecture of the Commonwealth.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC

Commissioner

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National Anti-Corruption Commission

Commissioner

Ref: 26#11448DOC

25 May 2026

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General

BY EMAIL: 22 [REDACTED]@ag.gov.au; 22 [REDACTED]@ag.gov.au

Dear Attorney,

Resignation – National Anti-Corruption Commissioner

I write to advise that I have this morning, pursuant to section 249 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022*, submitted my written resignation as National Anti-Corruption Commissioner to the Governor-General, to take effect on 6 July 2026.

It has been a privilege to serve the Commonwealth for what will have been 3 years as the inaugural National Anti-Corruption Commissioner.

As you are aware, over the last twelve months I have been dealing with a number of significant health issues. While this has not affected my dedication and commitment to the success of the Commission, it is also apparent that the relentless attacks on my personal integrity from some quarters, arising from my ongoing honorary ADF appointments and informal assistance to the IGADF, all of which were disclosed to and acknowledged by your predecessor and your department prior to my appointment, will not abate, and these inhibit both me and the Commission in the performance of our important functions.

I have therefore decided that it is time, now that the Commission is established and functioning with quality staff and good processes, to step aside and allow a new Commissioner to lead it into the next phase of its development into a key and respected component of the integrity architecture of the Commonwealth.

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Please find attached a draft media release that the Commission proposes to release this afternoon.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC

Commissioner

Cc Secretary, Attorney General's Department

22 [redacted] [@agd.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@agd.gov.au)

MEDIA RELEASE

RESIGNATION OF NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSIONER

Today the National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, the Hon Paul Brereton AM RFD SC, submitted his resignation to the Governor-General, to take effect on 6 July 2026.

Commissioner Brereton took office as the inaugural Commissioner on 1 July 2023, and will have served three years in the office when his resignation takes effect.

“The Commission was established to provide independent assurance to the Australian people that corrupt conduct in the Commonwealth public sector is appropriately addressed.

“Over the last three years, much progress has been made in pursuit of our mission of enhancing integrity in the Commonwealth public sector. While our mere existence has influenced and shaped behaviour for the better, that has been powerfully reinforced by our extensive education and engagement programme, which has enhanced the integrity culture across the sector.

“We have completed assessment of more than 92% of the 7,624 referrals received over the last three years.

“We have published seven investigation reports. Our investigations have exposed corrupt conduct in law enforcement agencies, Commonwealth departments and government business enterprises, including cronyism in a recruitment process, a secret commission in a procurement processes, dishonesty in senior executive decision-making, and the leaking of sensitive information about law enforcement investigations to criminal associates.

“Much more is underway. Our 34 current investigations cover former or current parliamentarians and staff, senior executives in the public service, contractors and consultants, and a grants scheme. Fair and thorough investigations take time, and the outcomes of these and other investigations will emerge in due course, though it is important to remember that many will not result in findings of corrupt conduct. From the outset we have been committed to fairness and that approach is well-embedded in the Commission’s operations.

“I would like to record my deep appreciation for the support and contributions of the Deputy Commissioners, the Chief Executive Officer, and the committed and diligent staff of the Commission, who work tirelessly in the interests of the Australian people.

“It is clear that there are some who are more interested in me personally, than in the work of the Commission, and whilst ever I am Commissioner, the Commission will continue to have to spend time and resources in answering inquiries and investigations about me. This is a distraction from the important work being done to enhance integrity in the Commonwealth public sector.

“I believe that the Commission’s success is paramount, and not due to any single person. While I will continue to resist any suggestion of impropriety, I have decided that it is time, now that the Commission is established and functioning with quality staff and good processes, to step aside and allow a new Commissioner to lead it into the next phase of its development into a key and respected component of the integrity architecture of the Commonwealth.”

25 May 2026

From: [Commissioner](#)
To: [NACC - All Staff](#)
Subject: Message from Commissioner [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]
Date: Monday, 25 May 2026 2:44:41 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive Personal-Privacy

Colleagues,

With sadness I have to tell you that I have this morning, after anxious consideration, submitted my resignation as National Anti-Corruption Commissioner to the Governor-General, to take effect on 6 July 2026.

The Commission was established to provide independent assurance to the Australian people that corrupt conduct in the Commonwealth public sector is appropriately addressed. It has been a privilege to be the inaugural Commissioner.

Over the last three years, much progress has been made in pursuit of our mission of enhancing integrity in the Commonwealth public sector. While our mere existence has influenced and shaped behaviour for the better, that has been powerfully reinforced by our extensive education and engagement programme, which has enhanced the integrity culture across the sector. Integrity is now on everyone's lips.

We have completed assessment of more than 92% of the 7,624 referrals received over the last three years.

We have published seven investigation reports. Our investigations have exposed corrupt conduct in law enforcement agencies, Commonwealth departments and government business enterprises, including nepotism in a recruitment process, a secret commission in a procurement process, dishonesty in senior executive decision-making, and the leaking of sensitive information about law enforcement investigations to criminal associates.

Much more is underway. Our 34 current investigations cover former or current parliamentarians and staff, senior executives in the public service, contractors and consultants, and a grants scheme. Fair and thorough investigations take time, and the outcomes of these and other investigations will emerge in due course, though it is important to remember that many will not result in findings of corrupt conduct. From the outset we have been committed to fairness, and that approach is well-embedded in the Commission's operations.

However, the ongoing focus on matters relating to me personally rather than the Commission's work is drawing attention away from the Commission's core purpose of strengthening integrity in the Commonwealth public sector, and this has always been my primary focus as Commissioner.

I believe that the Commission's success is paramount, and not due to any single person. While I will continue to resist any suggestion of impropriety, I have decided that it is time, now that the Commission is established and functioning with quality staff and sound processes, to step aside and allow a new Commissioner to lead it into the next phase of its development into a key and respected component of the integrity architecture of the Commonwealth.

I would like to acknowledge the loyal support of the Deputy Commissioners, the Chief Executive Officer, and the General Managers, and thank you all for your contributions to the work of the Commission, in the interests of the Australian people. I hope to speak with all of you between now and my last day in the office, which will be Friday 3 July.

PBrereton

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

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