National Anti-Corruption Commission

How the NACC assesses corruption issues

The NACC does not have to consider or respond to every referral it receives. The Commissioner can decide not to take any action in relation to a referral.

What happens after a referral is made?

If a referral raises a corruption issue, the Commission may deal with it in one or more of the following ways:

- conduct a preliminary investigation to find out more information, to decide how to deal with the issue
- if the issue could involve serious or systemic corrupt conduct, investigate the issue alone or jointly with a Commonwealth agency or a state or territory government entity
- refer the issue to the Commonwealth agency that the issue relates to for them to investigate
- refer the issue to a Commonwealth agency or state or territory government entity for consideration
- take no action.

If there is not enough information to decide whether the referral could involve serious or systemic corrupt conduct, the Commission may ask the person who referred the issue to provide more information.

The Commissioner may, at any time, reconsider whether or how to deal with a corruption issue.

Learn about making a referral on how to make a report.

Preliminary investigations

The Commissioner may conduct a preliminary investigation to decide:

- whether a referral raises a corruption issue
- about the nature of a corruption issue
- whether a corruption issue is serious or systemic.

A preliminary investigation helps the Commission find out more information about the referral. They can then decide whether or how to deal with it. The Commission can use some of their investigatory powers under the NACC Act in a preliminary investigation, such as compelling persons to provide certain information, documents or things.

To learn about how the Commissioner may deal with a corruption issue, and what happens if there is an investigation, see the investigation process.

Contact us

Please use our webform to make a report of corrupt conduct.

If in doubt about whether to refer a matter to the Commission, contact us.

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