22

From: Philip Reed
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2026 4:30 PM
To: Chidgey, Sarah
Subject: Statutory Office Holder appointments

Hi Sarah – further to our previous discussion about the appointment of a replacement for Deputy Commissioner Rose, followed by the subsequent recent resignation of the Commissioner, and the airing of the appointment process during Senate Estimates, I am writing to you seeking to be updated as soon as practicable about any potential acting appointments being made by the Attorney-General to the statutory roles of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner.

Last week, I sent out an email to all staff about the momentous events of the week of 25 May 2026 and that this was another defining point in the life of the Commission. I went on to say that the period between my email and 6 July would be business as usual for the Commission, with Commissioner Brereton actively driving the operational work of the Commission up to his departure date. However, I also advised staff that beyond 6 July there would be a period of uncertainty until we had an acting Commissioner and acting Deputy Commissioner in place. Further, I noted that as a result of the external recruitment process that would be initiated for the appointment of a new Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, we would go through an extended period of change that would continue until later in the calendar year.

Given that both the acting appointments and the new Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner appointments are process that will be undertaken by AGD, on behalf of the Attorney, I am seeking your assurance that you will let me know as soon as practicable about the appointments when decisions have been made to enable me to contact the individuals to begin the onboarding/induction processes. This worked well at the time of the appointment of DC Kilgour and helped smooth the way for her arrival into the Commission.

Happy to discuss.

Regards, Philip

22

From: Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2026 4:54 PM
To: Philip Reed
Cc: Samios, Sara
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Categories: Action/Review Required

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Philip

Yes, I will advise you as soon as there are decisions on acting appointments and, in due course, when the government has made decisions on proposed substantive appointments.

22 - Irrelevant material

Sarah

Sarah Chidgey PSM
Deputy Secretary
Integrity and Security Group
p 22
m 22
Executive Assistant: 22

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: Philip Reed 47E(d) & 47F(1) @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2026 4:30 PM
To: Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Subject: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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22

22 - Irrelevant to the scope of the request

From: Samios, Sara
Sent: Monday, 15 June 2026 5:36 PM
To: Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>; Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Philip

22 - Irrelevant material

We haven't finalised timing for commencing recruitment yet but are working towards a date sometime next week and will confirm when the date is settled. We anticipate the Attorney-General will put out a media release when the recruitment process commences. She also intends to put out a media release for the acting appointments, which may be combined with the commencement of recruitment if the timing allows. We will ensure you are aware of timing before the release/s go out.

Kind regards
Sara

Sara Samios
t. [redacted] | m. [redacted] | e. [redacted]@ag.gov.au

From: Chidgey, Sarah [redacted]@ag.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2026 4:54 PM
To: Philip Reed [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: Samios, Sara [redacted]@ag.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Philip

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22 - Irrelevant Letter - Out of Scope

Irrelevant Document - Out of Scope

22

From: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2026 6:32 PM
To: Philip Reed; Chidgey, Sarah
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: 22 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD persuant to their request: FOI26/267

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Philip

We have the following further updates for you.

Acting Deputy Commissioners
The Attorney-General has today agreed to appoint two acting Deputy Commissioners, each for a period of 3 months from 6 July. The appointees are:

- Ms Penny Shakespeare (currently a Deputy Secretary at the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing)
- Ms Jamie Lowe (currently Merit Protection Commissioner).

Both appointees are based in Canberra.

I have attached the instruments and an advance copy of letters to be formally dispatched tomorrow. I have also attached, with their consent, copies of the CV and Private Interests Declaration for each appointee – these are provided to assist you with your responsibilities in relation to conflicts of interest. Contact details for the two appointees are:

- Jamie Lowe: 47F(1) & 47E(d)
- Penny Shakespeare: 47F(1) & 47E(d)

I understand the Secretary has advised Commissioner Brereton of the acting appointments earlier this evening.

Announcement timing
We anticipate the three acting appointments and commencement of recruitment will all be announced in a single media release, to go out in the morning on Monday 22 June and coincide with the commencement of recruitment. Note this remains subject to finalising a couple of approvals so I will let you know if it changes.

Shortly before, or in parallel, the Attorney-General will also write to the PJC NACC about the acting appointments and recruitment process, and will write to the Presiding Officers in relation to Ms Lowe (due to her responsibilities under the Parliamentary Services Act as Merit Protection Commissioner).

22 - Irrelevant Material

Please let me know if you have questions about any of these matters.

Kind regards
Sara

Sara Samios
t. 22 | m. 22 | e. 22 @ag.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Irrelevant email

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 15 June 2026 5:36 PM
To: Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>; Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Philip

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22 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD persuant to their request: FOI26/267

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22 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD persuant to their request: FOI26/267

2 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD persuant to their request: FOI26/267

22 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD persuant to their request: FOI26/267

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22 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD persuant to their request: FOI26/267

22 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD persuant to their request: FOI26/267

22

From: Philip Reed
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 4:53 PM
To: 'Samios, Sara'; Chidgey, Sarah
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Sara – thank you for the update on both matters. Regards, Philip

From: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 4:09 PM
To: Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>; Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Philip

We will come back to you on the timing for the announcement, so you can be ready to go with comms to staff at the same time. I suspect it'll be in the morning on Monday, closer to 9 than 12, but we are yet to iron out those details.

22 - Irrelevant Material

Kind regards
Sara

Sara Samios
t. 22 | m. 22 | e. 22 @ag.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 7:29 AM
To: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>; Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi Sara - 22 - Irrelevant Material

Thank you for the details of the two appointees. As you say, the Secretary spoke to the Commissioner who then relayed the names to me yesterday evening. I will contact them this afternoon once I get to the Brisbane office.

I note the proposed announcement on Monday 22 June. It would be good to know the likely time when resolved, so I can issue something to all staff simultaneously.

22 - Irrelevant Material

Regards, Philip

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2026 6:32 PM
To: Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>; Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Philip

We have the following further updates for you.

Duplicate email

Duplicate email

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Duplicate email

22

From: Philip Reed
Sent: Friday, 19 June 2026 4:41 PM
To: 'Virtue, Joanna'; Chidgey, Sarah
Cc: Samios, Sara
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Jo – just spoke to 22 apparently the ad should be going out on Monday not tomorrow. She will be in contact. Regards, Philip

---

From: Virtue, Joanna 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 June 2026 3:58 PM
To: Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>; Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Cc: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear Philip,

Further to your emails with Sara, we are working toward the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner vacancies being published on our website at 9am tomorrow, with the Attorney-General's media release to go out once we confirm with the AGO that it is live. I understand the vacancies will be published here: Statutory appointments | Attorney-General's Department. As Sara indicated, the announcement will include the commencement of the recruitment and the three acting appointments.

I understand the Attorney-General will write to the PJC NACC on Sunday afternoon, and to the Presiding Officers about Ms Lowe. We will also be emailing key stakeholders shortly after the announcement is published. Digital advertising will commence from Tuesday morning and print ads will run from next weekend.

Please don't hesitate to call if there is anything else I can provide.

Jo

Joanna Virtue | Assistant Secretary
Fraud Prevention and Anti-Corruption Branch
Attorney-General's Department
T: 22
E: 22 @ag.gov.au

EA: 22 @ag.gov.au | 22



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: Samios, Sara [redacted] @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 4:09 PM
To: Philip Reed [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Chidgey, Sarah [redacted] @ag.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Philip

We will come back to you on the timing for the announcement, so you can be ready to go with comms to staff at the same time. I suspect it'll be in the morning on Monday, closer to 9 than 12, but we are yet to iron out those details.

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22

From: Philip Reed
Sent: Friday, 19 June 2026 4:41 PM
To: 'Virtue, Joanna'; Chidgey, Sarah
Cc: Samios, Sara
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OK thank you. Regards, Philip

From: Virtue, Joanna 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 June 2026 4:40 PM
To: Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>; Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Cc: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

I'm so sorry Philip – of course I meant to say 9am on Monday!

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: Virtue, Joanna
Sent: Friday, 19 June 2026 3:58 PM
To: Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>; Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Cc: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Dear Philip,

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22

From: AGO DLO 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 21 June 2026 5:37 PM
To: Kate.Thwaites.MP@aph.gov.au
Cc: NACC.committee@aph.gov.au; Commissioner; Kylie Kilgour; AGO DLO
Subject: Letter from the Attorney-General - NACC appointment process [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 22 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD pursuant to their request: FOI26/267 Out of Scope - Out of Scope

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Dear Chair,

Please find attached correspondence from the Attorney-General.

Kind regards,
22

22
Senior Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General
T +61 22 | **M** 22 | **E** 22 @ag.gov.au

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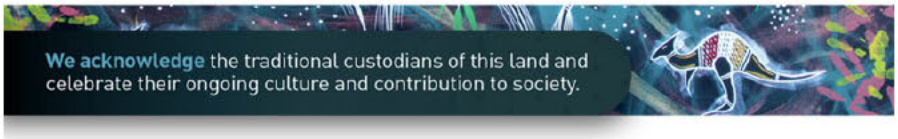


Image Description: Acknowledgement of Country image stating 'We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and celebrate their ongoing culture and contribution to society.'

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22 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD persuant to their request: FOI26/267

22 - Attachments to be processed by the AGD persuant to their request: FOI26/267

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Out of Scope

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22

From: Philip Reed
Sent: Monday, 22 June 2026 11:58 AM
To: 'Samios, Sara'; Chidgey, Sarah
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Sara – I sent you a text message earlier today and it would be good to have a chat about the AGD processes surrounding the appointments of the two Acting DCs, especially around clearances etc. I am happy to take it up with each of them but thought it might assist with knowing what has already been covered. Regards, Philip

---

From: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2026 6:32 PM
To: Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>; Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Statutory Office Holder appointments [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Philip

We have the following further updates for you.

Duplicate email

Duplicate email

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22

From: Philip Reed
Sent: Monday, 22 June 2026 9:45 AM
To: Virtue, Joanna; Kylie Kilgour
Cc: Samios, Sara; Chidgey, Sarah
Subject: RE: Announcement live - statutory office holder appointments and acting arrangements [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi Jo – thank you. Regards, Philip

From: Virtue, Joanna 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 June 2026 9:41 AM
To: Philip Reed 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour 47F(1) & 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: Samios, Sara 22 @ag.gov.au>; Chidgey, Sarah 22 @ag.gov.au>
Subject: Announcement live - statutory office holder appointments and acting arrangements [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear Philip and Kylie

The Attorney-General has issued the attached media release in relation to the opening of applications for the NACC Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner roles, and acting arrangements while the process is underway.

The vacancies are now live on our website here: Statutory appointments | Attorney-General's Department

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Cheers

Jo

Joanna Virtue | Assistant Secretary
Fraud Prevention and Anti-Corruption Branch
Attorney-General's Department
T: 22 | 22
E: 22 @ag.gov.au

EA: 22 @ag.gov.au | 22



Learn more about the AGD **Reconciliation Action Plan** on ag.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

22

From: Virtue, Joanna 22 @ag.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 June 2026 9:41 AM
To: Philip Reed; Kylie Kilgour
Cc: Samios, Sara; Chidgey, Sarah
Subject: Announcement live - statutory office holder appointments and acting arrangements [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: FW: ATTORNEY-GENERAL - MEDIA RELEASE - APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR COMMISSIONER AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION - MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear Philip and Kylie

The Attorney-General has issued the attached media release in relation to the opening of applications for the NACC Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner roles, and acting arrangements while the process is underway.

Duplicate email

22

From: Media AGD <media@ag.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 June 2026 9:35 AM
To: Media AGD
Subject: FW: ATTORNEY-GENERAL - MEDIA RELEASE - APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR COMMISSIONER AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION - MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

FYI the Attorney-General's Office has released the below media release.

OFFICIAL

From: Attorney-General's Office 22 @external.ag.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 June 2026 9:26 AM
To: Media AGD <media@ag.gov.au>
Subject: ATTORNEY-GENERAL - MEDIA RELEASE - APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR COMMISSIONER AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION - MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2026

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THE HON MICHELLE ROWLAND MP
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Applications open for Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the National Anti-Corruption Commission

The Albanese Government has today opened applications for the roles of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the National Anti-Corruption Commission.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) was established by the Albanese Government in 2023 and plays a central role in promoting integrity, honesty and accountability in government.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are key leadership positions in the NACC, responsible for promoting public confidence in the agency, setting its strategic direction, and discharging its important mandate.

Applications will be assessed by an eminent panel to determine a shortlist of suitable candidates for the Attorney-General's consideration and decision.

The Attorney-General will refer the preferred candidate for each position to the Parliament Joint Committee on the National Anti-Corruption Commission for approval, before recommending them to the Governor-General for appointment, consistent with section 178 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022*.

Candidates are sought who:

- exemplify integrity, independence, and ethical leadership
- have exceptional analytical and decision-making ability
- have extensive senior leadership experience, with the ability to create positive and high performing workplace cultures
- demonstrate productivity, diligence and resilience
- possess sophisticated capacity to build and sustain strong working relationships
- have outstanding verbal and written communication skills
- have extensive experience relevant to the Commission's role in deterring, detecting and preventing corrupt conduct.

The Government encourages applications from candidates who reflect the diversity of the Australian community. Applications close on Monday 13 July 2026.

Ms Kylie Kilgour will act as National Anti-Corruption Commissioner while the selection process takes place. Ms Kilgour is a current National Anti-Corruption Deputy Commissioner.

Ms Jamie Lowe and Ms Penny Shakespeare will act as National Anti-Corruption Deputy Commissioners while the selection process takes place.

More information is available on the Attorney-General's Department website.

Quotes attributable to the Attorney-General, Hon Michelle Rowland MP:

"Establishing the National Anti-Corruption Commission was a key priority that has been delivered by the Albanese Government.

"The Government is committed to strengthening the NACC, including by continuing to make appointments through an open, competitive and merit-based selection process.

"The Government is seeking candidates with the highest levels of integrity, leadership and decision-making ability for these positions."

MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2026

Media contacts:

Braeden Adams 0487 920 672 - Braeden.Adams@ag.gov.au

This email was sent by Braeden Adams, Attorney-General's Office, Australian Parliament House, Parliament House, ACT 2600, Australia to media@ag.gov.au

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