

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION**

*Third Report — ‘A good year’: The work of the Parliamentary Inspector  
of the Corruption and Crime Commission — Tabling*

**HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West — Leader of the Opposition)** [10.04 am]: I am directed to present the third report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission titled *‘A good year’: The work of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission*.

[See paper [1085](#).]

**Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS:** The title of this report, ‘A good year’, is how Mr Matthew Zilko, SC, the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, described the performance of his office in his first year in this role. Mr Zilko, who commenced this role in November 2020, was the first person appointed to the role since Hon Michael Murray, AM, QC, was appointed in 2013.

This report reflects on the work of the parliamentary inspector as discussed in his annual report 2020–21 and at his first public hearing with the committee in October 2021. It also canvasses his views, and the views of the Corruption and Crime Commission and Western Australia Police Force, on police body-worn cameras, a relatively new device in this state.

As members may be aware, the most prominent function of the parliamentary inspector is to investigate complaints from the public about the actions and decisions of the CCC, which in turn deals with allegations of “serious misconduct” by public officers, among other functions. The parliamentary inspector investigated 98 new matters in 2020–21—a 72 per cent increase compared with 2019–20. There was a significant increase in complaints from members of the public with 59 complaints, a 79 per cent increase. The total number of complaints to his office remained steady in the first half of 2021–22. An increase in public complaints is probably attributable to new paragraphs in CCC closing letters to complainants advising of their right to contact the parliamentary inspector if they are unhappy with the CCC’s decision. The committee commends the parliamentary inspector and the CCC for this initiative. Like his predecessor, the parliamentary inspector noted the lack of information the CCC provides in closing letters to complainants. The committee recommends that the Attorney General direct the Department of Justice in its current review of the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003 to review if legislative change is required.

Between June 2019 and June 2020, over 5 000 body-worn cameras were deployed to police in this state. The committee has made inquiries about the impact of the rollout of body-worn cameras and concluded that this integrity tool has been a positive development, delivering benefits to the police and integrity agencies. According to WA Police, the introduction of body-worn cameras has led to a drastic change of culture. Then acting Commissioner of Police, Col Blanch, told the committee that police officers trust the camera on their chest to tell the story of their conduct. As independent evidence of an incident, video footage is of great assistance when assessing allegations of police misconduct.

The parliamentary inspector commends WA Police on implementing body-worn cameras but advocates their increased use and for cameras to be activated at all times when a police officer interacts with a member of the public. In Western Australia, body-worn cameras are automatically activated when a police officer draws their firearm from their holster, as are body-worn cameras in the immediate vicinity. The parliamentary inspector advocates for police body-worn cameras to also be automatically activated when a taser is used. WA Police told the committee that it is working on a technical fix, which is quite expensive, to enable this capacity.

It is clear that body-worn cameras are an important tool in integrity investigations. Their use should be maximised. The committee intends to continue to monitor how the use of body-worn cameras affects integrity investigations and agencies.