

41ST PARLIAMENT



Joint Standing Committee on the
Corruption and Crime Commission

Report 14

ANNUAL REPORT 2023–24

Presented by

Mr M. Hughes, MLA and Hon Dr S.C. Thomas, MLC

October 2024

Committee Members

Chair	Mr M. Hughes, MLA Member for Kalamunda
Deputy Chair	Hon Dr S.C. Thomas, MLC Member for South West Region
Members	Hon M.J. Davies, MLA Member for Central Wheatbelt
	Hon K. Andric, MLC Member for South Metropolitan Region

Committee Staff

Principal Research Officer	Suzanne Veletta
Research Officer	Jovita Hogan

Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Tel: (08) 9222 7494
Email: jscccc@parliament.wa.gov.au
Website: www.parliament.wa.gov.au/jscccc

Published and printed by the authority of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission, Parliament of Western Australia

October 2024

ISBN: 978-1-922759-41-2

(Series: Western Australia. Parliament. Legislative Assembly. Committees.
Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. Report 14)

328.365



**Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption
and Crime Commission**

Annual Report 2023–24

Report No. 14

Presented by

Mr M. Hughes, MLA and Hon Dr S.C. Thomas, MLC

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council on
24 October 2024

Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present the final Annual Report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission for this Parliament. This report covers the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The committee monitors and reports on the exercise of the functions of the Corruption and Crime Commission and the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, inquires into and reports on the means by which corruption prevention practices may be enhanced within the public sector, and carries out functions under the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*.

Public confidence in the integrity of our institutions is critical. The Corruption and Crime Commission, under the leadership of Commissioner Hon John McKechnie AO KC and Deputy Commissioner Hon Michael Corboy SC, and the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, Matthew Zilko SC, play an important role in improving the integrity of the public sector. I thank them for their productive engagement with the committee this Parliament and wish them well.

I also sincerely thank my colleagues on the committee, Hon Dr Steve Thomas MLC (Deputy Chair), Hon Mia Davies MLA and Hon Klara Andric MLC. Their bi-partisan, professional and collegiate approach has enabled the committee to responsibly discharge its oversight and other duties this Parliament.



MR M. HUGHES, MLA
CHAIR



Contents

Chair's foreword

Annual Report 2023–24

Functions of the committee	1
Committee activities	1
Public hearings	1
Reports	2
Financial statement	3

Annual Report 2023–24

This Annual Report summarises the activities of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 (reporting period).

Functions of the committee

Under Legislative Assembly Standing Order 289 it is the function of the committee to:

- a) monitor and report to Parliament on the exercise of the functions of the Corruption and Crime Commission and the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission
- b) inquire into, and report to Parliament on the means by which corruption prevention practices may be enhanced within the public sector
- c) carry out any other functions conferred on the committee under the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*.

Committee activities

A summary of the activities of the committee during the reporting period follows.

Table 1: Activities of the committee, 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Description	Activity
Deliberative meetings	18
Formal evidence hearings	5
Witnesses appearing	20
Briefings	2
Reports tabled	3
Report findings tabled	49
Report recommendations tabled	39

Public hearings

The committee has the power to send for persons, papers and records.

Due to the nature of the committee’s work, hearings may be held in closed session, sometimes after a public session with the witnesses.¹ It is also not unusual for correspondence to the committee and other written evidence to remain closed evidence.

The committee posts transcripts of public hearings and other public evidence on its [website](#).

During the reporting period, the committee held four public hearings, taking evidence from 18 witnesses.

¹ For Annual Report purposes, a public hearing followed by a private hearing with the same witnesses is recorded as one hearing.

- On 30 August 2023 the committee held a hearing with the Corruption and Crime Commission in relation to the committee’s inquiry into ‘What happens next? Beyond a finding of serious misconduct’. This was the final hearing for the inquiry.
- On 18 October 2023 and 8 May 2024 we held hearings with the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission and the commission respectively to discuss their annual reports and other matters.
- On 12 June 2024 we held a hearing with the Police Commissioner and officers of the Western Australia Police Force on matters relevant to police misconduct and misconduct prevention practices.

Reports

The committee tabled three reports during the reporting period, namely:

- [Annual Report 2022-23](#), Report 10, tabled in both Houses on 12 October 2023.
- [What happens next? Beyond a finding of serious misconduct: examining the responses to a finding of serious misconduct and building integrity in public agencies](#), Report 11, tabled in both Houses on 30 November 2023.
- [Going rogue: serious misconduct by a commission officer – Parliamentary Inspector’s report](#), Report 12, tabled in both Houses on 21 March 2024.

The committee’s 11th report, *What happens next? Beyond a finding of serious misconduct: examining the responses to a finding of serious misconduct and building integrity in public agencies*, covered a wide range of issues relevant to what happens after a public officer is found to have engaged in serious misconduct.

The committee reported on sanctions and other outcomes public agencies (including local governments) impose on public officers, whether lessons are being learned from misconduct events, and if appropriate action is being taken to systemically respond to misconduct events, prevent misconduct and build integrity at public agencies. We reported on criminal prosecutions after a finding of misconduct, and how to improve prosecution outcomes.

The committee made 49 findings and 34 recommendations. Many recommendations were directed at systemic change to enhance agency accountability and transparency, and public sector integrity.

The [Government Response](#) to Report 11, which included the response of the commission and Public Sector Commissioner, was tabled on 12 March 2024. The Government supported nine recommendations, gave in principle support to 20 recommendations, noted three recommendations, and are considering one recommendation. Only one of the committee’s recommendations was rejected.

Report 12, *Going rogue: serious misconduct by a commission officer – Parliamentary Inspector’s report*, informed the Parliament that an officer of the Corruption and Crime Commission, its Human Source Coordinator and manager of its Human Source Team, engaged in serious misconduct over three years.

The Parliamentary Inspector found that between early 2020 and early 2023 the officer corruptly used her position as Human Source Coordinator to obtain a personal benefit, namely, an extensive and intimate relationship with one of the commission’s human sources. The report describes how the officer deceived the commission, exposed others to potential harm by revealing official information obtained through her work, and neglected to responsibly perform her job. While it could be said that the officer did ‘go rogue’, the investigation exposed serious weaknesses in how the commission managed its misconduct risks.

The committee made four recommendations in the report. The committee is pleased with the response to these recommendations, which can be found [here](#). The Western Australia Police Force advised that it had commenced an investigation into the conduct of the former officer of the commission the subject of the report.

The commission unreservedly accepted that system failure contributed to the climate in which the officer’s deception was possible and continued over many years. The commission initiated an independent review, and agreed to consider the work of its Human Source Team and whether the team should be retained or this service delivered in another way. The commission has reported to the committee on the review and action taken to minimise its misconduct risks. The committee will report to Parliament on this matter.

Finally, on 22 May 2024, the Premier, Hon Roger Cook MLA, recommended to the committee that a particular person be appointed Deputy Commissioner of the commission under the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*. By way of letters dated May and June 2024, the committee took issue with the Premier not providing the committee with the report of the nominating committee and the names of the three candidates referred to him during the appointment process. This was contrary to standard practice.²

Financial statement

The committee does not have its own formal budget and is funded out of the budget of the Legislative Assembly. Approval for major expenditures is required on a case-by-case basis and is at the discretion of the Speaker.

The committee’s expenditure in the reporting period is set out below.

Table 2: Expenditure items of the committee, 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Expenditure Item	Amount (\$)
Printing	1,777
Staff/member amenities	336
Travel including conference fees	15,089
TOTAL	17,202
Note: Salaries of committee staff and costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for committee accommodation, are not included.	

² On 15 August 2024, after the reporting period, the committee reported to both Houses on this matter when it tabled Report 13, *A lower standard: information the Premier provides to the committee when undertaking its role in an appointment process on behalf of the Parliament*.

I commend the report to the House.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Hughes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

**MR M. HUGHES, MLA
CHAIR**



Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace, West Perth WA 6005
Telephone: +61 8 9222 7222
Email: laco@parliament.wa.gov.au
Website: www.parliament.wa.gov.au