



NEW SOUTH WALES

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Senator George Campbell
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Canberra ACT 2600

25 JUN 2008

Dear Senator *George*

Inquiry into law enforcement integrity models

Thank you for your invitation to provide a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity's inquiry into law enforcement integrity models.

In NSW the Police Force is overseen by both the Police Integrity Commission and the NSW Ombudsman.

The Police Integrity Commission was formed following the Wood Royal Commission in 1996 and retains the standing powers of a Royal Commission. The scope of the Police Integrity Commission is in the prevention, detection and investigation of serious police misconduct.

As the Police Integrity Commission focuses on the most serious corruption matters those of a less serious nature are dealt with internally by the NSW Police Force and are managed by the Professional Standards Command. These matters are overseen by the NSW Ombudsman.

Further information about both these agencies and their activities can be found at their respective websites, which are:

Police Integrity Commission – www.pic.nsw.gov.au
NSW Ombudsman – www.nswombudsman.nsw.gov.au

The Police Integrity Commission reports to Parliament on its activities in its Annual Report.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Office of the Ombudsman and the Police Integrity Commission monitors and reviews the both the Ombudsman and the Commission in the exercise of their functions.

The Inspector of the Police Integrity Commission has the power to investigate and assess complaints about the Commission or officers of the Commission.

The Inspector is not an officer of the Commission. He is independent and reports to Parliament.

In NSW there are recent developments in the oversight of law enforcement agencies that I am pleased to bring to your attention.

We are moving to expand the scope of the Police Integrity Commission to include oversight of the activities and officers of the NSW Crime Commission with powers equal to the level of oversight the Police Integrity Commission has for NSW Police Officers.

The Parliament has passed a Bill known as the *Police Integrity Commission Amendment (Crime Commission) Bill 2008*. Details of the Bill can be accessed via www.parliament.nsw.gov.au.

This legislation will provide for all major NSW law enforcement agencies to be overseen by the one body when it receives royal assent.

The NSW Crime Commission is currently oversighted by the Independent Commission Against Corruption, which has a mandate to investigate possible corruption within the Crime Commission but not serious misconduct.

The new arrangements will give the PIC the power to investigate not only possible corruption, but also any misconduct, with a reference to focus on serious misconduct.

Further, the PIC will be given the power to investigate misconduct of Crime Commission officers, even if this misconduct occurs off-duty, and of former officers.

It is also of note that the PIC has the power to investigate any public official involved in suspected serious misconduct involving a NSW Police Officer or NSW Crime Commission Officer. This extends to Commonwealth public officials.

Full details of the *Police Integrity Commission Act* can be found at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely


David Campbell
Minister for Police
Minister for the Illawarra

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON
THE AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION FOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY

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