

Polling consistently shows a high level of support for an anti-corruption commission and a low level of trust in government at the Federal level.

In Australia and globally anti-corruption commissions have uncovered systemic corruption and misconduct that was not found by existing agencies. However, this only occurs where there are extensive powers and jurisdiction to investigate and expose corruption, misconduct, and maladministration in government and the public sector and the commission being independent of government.

At present no federal agency has the investigative powers, jurisdiction, and mandate to expose corruption, misconduct and maladministration in the Australian government and public sector equal to that of an anti-corruption commission. A federal anti-corruption commission would fill the gaps in Australia's integrity system and increase public trust in the public sector, judiciary, and elected officials.

A federal anti-corruption commission needs the

- ability to hold public hearings. Keeping all investigations a secret does more to help corruption than expose it
- legislative requirement to table findings meaning people face real consequences for their misdeeds, enabling voters and future employers to make valued and informed decisions
- net cast wide, to ensure there is a broad scope of public servants, elected officials and the judiciary that the commission has within its mandate. Without this people can hide corruption and public confidence in our system will remain low.
- ability to accept and act upon any submissions from any member of the global community, the restrictions of submissions will allow corruption to stay hidden due to a legal loophole
- bestowing of standard investigative powers like intercepting an elected members phone call. Else it is a toothless tiger
- separation of governance and reporting away from government to ensure it remains independent and delays in releasing reports and funding are not used to side-step what has come to light

The proposal put forward by the Morrison government does not meet the above litmus tests and is an example of being seen to do something while doing nothing.

I am tabling with this submission 'The case for a federal corruption watchdog ICAC needed to fill the gaps in our integrity system' discussion paper by Hannah Alby (August 2017 - https://ogpau.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/consultation/the_australia_institute_1.pdf)

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