



Media Release

27 June 2023

REVIEW OF ICAC INVESTIGATION RELEASED

The Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (**ICAC**), Office for Public Integrity and Ombudsman SA, Philip Strickland SC, has completed his report on the review into the investigation and prosecution of Mr John Hanlon. Today the Inspector's report was tabled in Parliament.

The Inspector's review focussed on the practices and procedures adopted by ICAC during its investigation into Mr Hanlon (former Chief Executive of Renewal SA) and whether undue prejudice to the reputation of Mr Hanlon was caused by the investigation.

The Inspector found that there was sufficient evidence to justify the investigation by ICAC into Mr Hanlon's travel to both Melbourne and Germany, and that the referral of those allegations to the Director of Public Prosecutions (**DPP**) was appropriate and reasonable.

The Inspector found that there was no undue prejudice to the reputation of Mr Hanlon caused by the ICAC investigation or referral to the DPP.

This inquiry has revealed a number of significant failures by ICAC in the conduct of its investigation into Mr Hanlon.

The Inspector found that although ICAC did not engage in corruption or misconduct in public administration, there was evidence of substantial mismanagement in relation to ICAC's official functions resulting from incompetence or negligence arising from the following aspects of ICAC's conduct:

- ICAC's conduct in carrying out investigations in Germany without obtaining prior legal advice, or obtaining approval from German authorities; and
- ICAC's failure to disclose to the DPP certain matters arising out of the investigation including issues with the obtaining of evidence while in Germany.

The substantial mismanagement on the part of ICAC cannot be attributed to the current Commissioner of ICAC, the Hon Ann Vanstone KC, who has taken significant steps since the Hanlon investigation to remedy these defects.



The Inspector has made four recommendations each of them directed to ICAC with a view to improving its processes and avoiding the failures that arose in this investigation.

“Any criticism or recommendations I make in this report should be viewed as an opportunity to improve the ICAC’s processes in order to safeguard its essential role in guarding against corruption. The ICAC continues to perform a crucial role in carrying out its functions and in ensuring that corruption in public administration does not go unchecked.”

For media enquiries, please contact inspector@sa.gov.au