

Queensland Integrity Commissioner  
Annual Report 2010-11

# Queensland Integrity Commissioner

Annual Report 2010-11

The Integrity Commissioner is an independent officer of the Parliament who advises senior Queensland public officials on ethics or integrity issues.

## About this report

This annual report provides information about the Integrity Commissioner's financial and non-financial performance for 2010-11. It has been prepared in accordance with the Financial Accountability Act 2009 and the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009.

This report has been prepared for the Speaker and the Finance and Administration Committee for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

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Copies of this publication can be obtained from [www.integrity.qld.gov.au](http://www.integrity.qld.gov.au) or by contacting 07 3224 2351.

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Integrity Commissioner Annual Report 2010-11.

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Innovation Policy

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The Honourable John Mickel MP  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
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BRISBANE QLD 4000

Mr Wayne Wendt MP  
Chair  
Finance and Administration Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

Dear Mr Wendt

This is the Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner for the 12 months ending 30 June 2011.

It is the second report under the provisions of s. 85 of the *Integrity Act 2009* and complies with the provisions of that section. It is, in accordance with that section, provided to the Speaker and the Parliamentary Committee for Finance and Administration. Previous Annual Reports were provided to the Premier as required by the provisions of the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*. However, since 1 January 2010 when the *Integrity Act* came into force, the Integrity Commissioner has been an officer of the Parliament.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Solomon', written in a cursive style.

Dr David Solomon AM  
Queensland Integrity Commissioner

20 September 2011

## Who is the Queensland Integrity Commissioner?

Dr David Solomon AM became Queensland's third Integrity Commissioner on 1 July 2009.

The position of Queensland Integrity Commissioner was established in 1999 by amendments to the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*. The Honourable Alan Demack AO, a former judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland, took office as the first Integrity Commissioner in August 2000, and retired on 30 June 2004.

He was succeeded by Mr Gary Crooke QC, who served a five year term until 30 June 2009. Mr Crooke had a distinguished legal career that included serving as Senior Counsel assisting the Fitzgerald Inquiry, 1987-89 and Chairman of the National Crime Authority, 1999-2002.



Dr David Solomon was appointed to a five year term as Integrity Commissioner on 25 June 2009, and took office on 1 July 2009.

Dr Solomon was Chair of the Independent Panel appointed by the Bligh Government to review Queensland's Freedom of Information laws in 2007-08.

He spent most of his working life in Canberra, writing about politics and the law, for such newspapers as *The Australian*, *The Australian Financial Review* and *The Canberra Times*. He moved to Brisbane in 1992 to Chair the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission, and, when that Commission was wound up, began writing for the *Courier-Mail* as a Contributing Editor. He retired from full-time journalism at the end of 2005.

He has degrees from the Australian National University in Arts and Law (with honours), and a Doctorate of Letters. He has written almost a dozen books on parliament, politics, constitutional law and the High Court.

He received the Centenary Medal in 2001, and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2006.

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## The roles and functions of the Integrity Commissioner

The responsibilities and duties of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner are detailed in the *Integrity Act 2009*. They were previously contained in the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*.

The functions of the Integrity Commissioner are set out in section 7 of the *Integrity Act*. They are

- (a) to give written advice to a designated person on ethics or integrity issues;
- (b) to meet with, and give written or oral advice to, members of the Legislative Assembly;
- (c) to keep the lobbyists register and have responsibility for the registration of lobbyists;
- (d) to raise public awareness of ethics or integrity issues by contributing to public discussion of these issues relevant to the integrity commissioner's functions.

### The Integrity function

The Integrity Commissioner's role in providing advice on ethics or integrity matters, including conflict of interest issues, is limited. Advice may only be given when it is sought by a "designated person". The Act specifies who are or may be the "designated persons" that the Integrity Commissioner may assist. Essentially they are Ministers, Members of Parliament (though Opposition MPs were only added by an amendment that came into effect in September 2009), statutory office holders, Chief Executives of government agencies, senior executive officers and senior officers, staffers of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and other people who may be nominated by a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.

There are more than 5,000 people who fit the description of a designated person. However senior executives, senior officers and senior officer equivalents, who together constitute the overwhelming majority of the designated persons, may only seek advice if they have the signed authority of their chief executive.

The term, "conflict of interest" is defined in the *Integrity Act*.

A conflict of interest issue, involving a person, is an issue about a conflict or possible conflict between a personal interest of the person and the person's official responsibilities.

The underlined words were added to the definition originally in the *Public Sector Ethics Act* to bring in the notion of a possible conflict, and to extend what were first described as "official duties" to "official responsibilities".

Requests for advice on ethics or integrity issues must be in writing. The Integrity Commissioner must base the advice provided on relevant approved codes of conduct or approved ethical standards and such other standards as the Integrity Commissioner considers appropriate. The advice must be in writing. The Integrity Commissioner may only decline to provide advice if the Integrity Commissioner reasonably believes that not enough information has been provided in relation to the issue or that giving the advice would not be in keeping with the purpose of the Act.

Requests for advice, and the advice given, are confidential, and are not subject to disclosure under the *Right to Information Act 2009*. However a person who receives advice may disclose it.

The Premier may ask for the Integrity Commissioner's advice involving any person who is or has been a designated person, other than a non-government MP. The Premier may also ask for advice on standard setting for ethics or integrity issues.

Others in leadership positions – the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Chief Executives – may ask for the Integrity Commissioner's advice on an ethics or integrity issue involving a designated person for whom they have responsibility, as set out in sections 17-20 of the Act.

Members of the Legislative Assembly may request a meeting with the Integrity Commissioner to discuss ethics or integrity issues arising from their declaration of interests in the Parliamentary register of members' interests or the register of related persons' interests. The Integrity Commissioner may give such advice either orally or in writing.

## The Lobbyists' function

Since 2010 the Integrity Commissioner has been responsible for administering the regulation of lobbying activities under the *Integrity Act*. This involves the maintenance of the Lobbyists Register and approval of a Code of Conduct for lobbyists. The regulatory system is based on the requirement, in s. 71 of the Act, that "government representatives" must not knowingly permit an entity that is not a registered lobbyist to carry out a lobbying activity for a third party client with the government representative.

"Government representative" is broadly defined. It includes the Premier, Ministers, parliamentary secretaries and their respective staff members, Chief Executives and the staff of their departments, local government councillors and Chief Executives and staff of councils, the parliamentary staff, and the chief executives and staff of government owned corporations.

"Lobbyist" is narrowly defined. While "lobbying" has a meaning that would be accepted in many jurisdictions – "contact with a government representative in an effort to influence State or local government decision making" (s. 42(1)) – an entity that lobbies is defined in a very restrictive way that excludes many of those who do in fact lobby government. According to section 41(1),

*A lobbyist is an entity that carries out a lobbying activity for a third party client or whose employees or contractors carry out a lobbying activity for a third party client.*

The section goes on to provide a series of exceptions. Those who are declared not to be lobbyists for the purposes of the Act include –

- Non-profit entities
- Entities constituted to represent the interests of their members
- Entities lobbying on their own behalf

- Entities that carry out lobbying that is “occasional only and incidental to the provision of professional or technical services”.

The Integrity Commissioner maintains a register of registered lobbyists. To register, a lobbyist must provide

- (a) the lobbyist’s name and business registration particulars;
- (b) for each person (*listed person*) employed, contracted or otherwise engaged by the lobbyist to carry out a lobbying activity—
  - (i) the person’s name and role; and
  - (ii) if the person is a former senior government representative, the date the person became a former senior government representative;
- (c) the name of each current client of the lobbyist;
- (d) the name of each client for which the lobbyist has carried out a lobbying activity within the 12 month period before the lobbyist most recently gave the integrity commissioner the particulars under this division or section 53;

These details are published in the register on the Integrity Commissioner’s website.

Proposed “listed persons” (that is, lobbyists employed by lobbying entities) must provide a statutory declaration with details of any relevant criminal history, including any dishonesty offence with a conviction in the previous 10 years.

The requirement that “former senior government representatives” have to be identified on the register flows from the fact that the Act prohibits such people, for two years after they become “former” senior government representatives, from any lobbying activity relating to their official dealings as a government representative in the two years before becoming a former senior government representative.

“Former senior government representative” is defined in a very broad manner to include, for example, anyone who had worked in the office of a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, as well as Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, and senior public servants, down to senior executive level or equivalent.

Lobbyists are also prohibited by the Act (in section 69) from receiving a success fee for their efforts in lobbying government. If a lobbyist offended this prohibition, they would be liable not only to be fined but also to surrender the fee to the government.

Lobbyists are required to comply with a Lobbyists Code of Conduct, approved by the Integrity Commissioner, that is published on the website. The Lobbyists Code of Conduct was introduced in March 2010 and was largely based on an administrative code that was in force in 2009. The range of ethical requirements lobbyists are now required to meet was increased in the new code.

Significantly the Lobbyists Code of Conduct includes two important prerequisites to any lobbying activity, designed to make it easier for government and local government representatives to appreciate the nature of the lobbying activity to which they are being asked to respond.



First, when making an initial contact lobbyists have to make clear that they are on the lobbyist register, and the person conducting the lobbying is listed, who they are representing, the nature of the issue they wish to raise and the reasons for the approach.

Second, if the listed lobbyist is a former government representative, they must indicate when they became a former government representative and that the matter they wish to lobby about is not banned by the Act as a “related lobbying activity.”

## The public awareness function

The Integrity Commissioner is required –

to raise public awareness of ethics or integrity issues by contributing to public discussion of these issues relevant to the integrity commissioner’s functions.

In performing this function, however, the Integrity Commissioner must not disclose information likely to identify a specific request for advice that has been received or information that could result in the identification of any person who sought advice or about whom advice was sought.

## The 2010-2011 year in review

### *Integrity Act* and other integrity issues

I gave details in my 2009-2010 annual report of the Bligh Government's decision to introduce a range of new integrity measures in Queensland, following consideration of the green paper that it issued in August 2009 on integrity and accountability. Some, including the new *Integrity Act 2009*, came into force during that year. Others were scheduled for action during the 2010-2011 financial year. Here I mention those that were enacted, implemented or modified in the 12 months under review. Those matters that were dealt with in the previous financial year and reported in my annual report last year have not been repeated here.

These were some of the more important changes in the period under review.

#### (a) **Integrity Act**

In the Spring 2010 session of Parliament, the Government introduced a series of amendments to the *Integrity Act*, some of them at my request. In summary these amendments, and the parts of the Act affected, were:

1. Request for advice by the Premier. Amend to allow the Premier to seek advice about standard setting for ethics or integrity issues, without reference to a particular designated person – s. 15(2) and s. 16.
2. Amend sections permitting the Integrity Commissioner to disclose to the Premier, Leader of the Opposition and Chief Executive Officers actual or perceived ethics or integrity issues involving other designated persons in particular circumstances – ss. 29(1)(b), 32(1)(b) and 33, 38 and 39(1)(b).
3. Replace the examples in s. 41(5) dealing with entities that may undertake incidental lobbying. The aim of the change was to clarify that activity already subject to regulation under specific regulation should not be subject to additional regulation under the lobbying provisions of the Act.
4. Exclude from the definition of lobbying activity contact only for the purpose of making a statutory application – s. 42.
5. Allow the Integrity Commissioner to issue a warning, or suspend a lobbyist from the lobbyists register, as alternatives to cancelling their registration – s. 66A.
6. Require government representatives to notify the Integrity Commissioner where unregistered lobbying is identified – s. 71(3).
7. Authorise the release of information, including personal information, by government representatives to the Integrity Commissioner to allow for the monitoring of lobbying activity in Queensland – s. 72A.

8. Requirement for declaration of interests by nominated statutory office holders to be provided to their Minister and to the Integrity Commissioner – Chapter 4A.
9. Requirement for declaration of interests by the Integrity Commissioner – ss. 80 and 81.
10. Requirement for the Integrity Commissioner to disclose in the annual report any non-compliance with the requirement for statutory officers to provide declarations of interests and to identify anyone at fault.

**(b) Whistleblowing**

The legislation to reform the *Whistleblowers Protection Act* was presented to Parliament early in August 2010. The new *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010* came into effect on 1 January 2011.

**(c) Single code of conduct**

The new Code of Conduct for the Queensland public service, based on principles in the amended *Public Sector Ethics Act*, came into effect at the beginning of 2011.

**(d) The new parliamentary committee system**

Prospectively one of the really significant improvements in accountability would be the development of a better and more effective parliamentary committee system. The all-party committee established specifically to review the current system and its operation reported in December 2010. It recommended the abolition of almost all the committees then operating and their replacement by a series of portfolio committees, each being required, within its portfolio area, to examine all relevant Bills and any matter that would have been referred to the former Public Works and Public accounts Committee and estimates. The Parliament created a special committee, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, to oversee the implementation of the reforms. The new system was brought into operation late in June 2011.

**(e) Upgrading the role of the Public Service Commission**

The Public Service Commission has had its role enhanced in a number of ways. First it will have a stronger role in ensuring consistency of disciplinary action and practices across the whole public sector. Second, it acquired a new Ethical Standards Branch to assist in providing advice on ethics issues. It is overseeing the expansion of the existing public sector ethics network to ensure it is represented in every agency. And it is providing the lead in the development of mandatory training in ethical decision-making across the whole sector. Training is mostly to be run at an agency level but the PSC will provide materials and ensure there is some uniformity. All new public sector employees will be required to undertake Code of Conduct training. In addition, the government decided there will be mandatory, annual training in ethical decision-making for the whole of the public sector. Training has already been provided to Chief Executives, statutory office holders and Ministers.

(f) ***A new Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff Act***

The Government introduced legislation to govern the employment of ministerial and electorate staff – the *Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff Act 2010*. The Premier issued a Communique on the interaction between ministerial staff and public servants, outlining the expected standards of conduct for such interactions and detailing their respective roles and responsibilities. This was a response to a report by the Crime and Misconduct Commission.

(g) ***Parliament of Queensland Act***

The Integrity Reform legislation in 2010 included several changes to the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*. First, the Act created a statutory basis for the declaration and registration of Members' interests and made it clear that breaches of the requirements would constitute contempt of the Legislative Assembly. Second, the Act provided expressly that the prohibition on Members transacting business with an entity of the State refers only to agreements or contracts for the provision or receipt of goods. This restores the constitutional position that existed before the commencement of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*. This amendment was passed after I became aware that some Members may have been inadvertently, and without their knowledge, in breach of the former provision in the *Parliament of Queensland Act*.

As I remarked last year, I consider that the changes that have been introduced have resulted in a considerable strengthening of the integrity system in Queensland but a final verdict will depend on the implementation process.

## Other developments

(a) **Requests from designated persons**

The 2009-2010 spike in the volume of requests for advice from “designated persons” was not maintained in 2010-2011, falling from 57 to 40. However, this was still twice the number of requests that my predecessor received in 2008-2009. There was a significant decline in requests from the Premier, Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, from 20 in the previous year to 11. The largest decline was in requests from backbench MPs, from 11 to just 5. A detailed breakdown is provided in a later section of this report.

Most requests for advice were answered in about 24 hours. Some took longer because I needed further information from the person making the request, or because a designated person needed to obtain permission from their chief executive to make the request. Two matters held over from the previous period were also finalised.

These comments on my performance of this function are necessarily expressed in a generalised and unspecific manner. This is dictated by the requirement in the *Integrity Act* that the annual report “must not disclose information likely to identify a specific request for the Integrity Commissioner’s advice on an ethics or integrity issue, including information likely to identify” anyone requesting advice or about who advice was requested – s. 85 (3).



## **(b) Interviews with government MPs**

The Premier has maintained the Government's commitment to requiring each Government Member of Parliament to meet annually with the Integrity Commissioner to discuss the Member's pecuniary interests and how the Member intends to manage any potential conflicts of interest.

I met with every Government MP (including the Premier and all Ministers) during the year under review, as I had in the previous year. Most discussions, based on their publicly available declarations of interest, were brief and uneventful. The *Integrity Act* makes it possible for any Member of the Legislative Assembly to request a meeting with the Integrity Commissioner about their own interests issues and to obtain advice.

## **(c) Requests and meetings concerning lobbying**

I received and responded to 25 written requests for advice about various aspects of the lobbying provisions of the *Integrity Act*, mainly from local government councils.

I gave evidence to the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) as part of its inquiry into corruption risks involved in lobbying. I was also consulted by representatives of the Victorian, Tasmanian and South Australian Governments about lobbying and/or integrity issues. I attended, with Deborah Clark-Dickson, Principal Policy Office (Lobbying), a meeting of officers administering lobbying legislation and/or codes of the Commonwealth and all the States.

## **(d) Other presentations and meetings**

I gave presentations, and answered questions, at a large number of meetings with Councillors and/or senior staff of many local governments (generally 1-2 hours each) including the Gold Coast, Logan, Ipswich and Redland City Councils, and the Moreton Bay, Toowoomba, Fraser Coast and Gladstone Regional Councils. I also addressed the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils and the North Queensland Local Government Association Conference.

Professional bodies to whom I made presentations included the Australian Institute of Administrative Law, the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators, the Inter-departmental Accounting Group, the University of Queensland's Business School and Corporate Education department and the Queensland Environmental Law Association. I also had meetings with, or spoke to, representatives of Government Owned Corporations, Senior Executive Service inductees, the Queensland Police Service corporate governance collaborative group and the Chief Executive Officers Leadership Team.

I had meetings with a number of individual lobbyists and organisations concerning lobbying, including the Local Government Association of Queensland and executive members of the Government Relations Professionals Association (Inc.).

**(e) Advice/responses to the Premier, Public Service Commission and others**

At the end of June 2011, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet was involved in a review of the provisions of the *Integrity Act*. In anticipation of this, I conducted my own review of the lobbying provisions of the Act earlier in the year. I sought submissions from lobbyists and other stakeholders, and more generally through a notice on the website. A total of 35 submissions was received. I provided my own submission to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet at the end of May, and a supplementary submission in late June. Those submissions were posted on the website and people were invited to comment on them directly to the departmental review.

I have been consulted regularly by the Public Service Commission about material concerning integrity and ethics issues that they planned to issue, and occasionally by some other government agencies.

I was consulted by and provided advice to the Local Government Association of Queensland concerning the appointment by them of a new Ethics Advisor. The 2010 LGAQ annual conference had asked the Government to have the Integrity Commissioner provide advice on ethics and integrity issues to mayors, councillors and senior officers of local government. This request was rejected by the Government, not least because the Integrity Commissioner lacked the resources to provide such advice. The LGAQ then decided to establish its own independent ethics advisor, and after advertising it, appointed former Liberal Deputy Premier, Joan Sheldon, to the position.

**(f) Advertising guidelines**

I noted above that two requests for advice had been held over from the 2009-10 financial year and were finalised in the current year. One of these was a request by the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for advice on standards that should apply to opposition advertising paid by the Government. The Director-General was the accountable officer in relation to such expenditure. In undertaking to meet this request I consulted the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier and initiated research as to standards that applied elsewhere in Australia and overseas. My advice recommended changes to the guidelines based mainly on new guidelines that had been developed by the Commonwealth to cover government advertising.

My recommendations were adopted in full by the Government and applied not only to government-funded Opposition advertising but also to the Government's own advertising. The new guidelines were tabled in Parliament on 2 September 2010.

**(g) The Lobbyists Code of Conduct**

No changes have been made to the Lobbyists Code of Conduct though I did review it during the year. There have been no complaints made to me about possible breaches of the code.

**(h) The Integrity Commissioner's work-load**

For the whole of the 2010-2011 year I have been employed on the basis that I would carry a workload that was 80 per cent of full-time. That is a reasonably accurate reflection of what has occurred, though possibly a slight underestimate. The work has been split reasonably evenly between the integrity and lobbyist regulation functions.

**(i) Relations with Parliamentary Committee**

I was scheduled to meet in June with the Parliamentary Members Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee, having responded to a series of questions the Committee had supplied to me. However the meeting was cancelled as a result of the reorganisation of the parliamentary committee system. Under the new parliamentary committee system the Finance and Administration Committee has oversight jurisdiction of the Integrity Commissioner.

**(j) Declarations of interest by statutory office holders and chief executives**

Section 85(2) of the *Integrity Act* requires the Integrity Commissioner to provide details of compliance by statutory office holders and chief executives of departments with the respective requirements of s. 72C of the Act and s. 101 of the *Public Service Act 2008* to give the Integrity Commissioner statements and written advice. These sections deal with declarations of interest by statutory office holders and chief executives to a Minister and to the Integrity Commissioner. I can report that as at 30 June 2011, all statutory office holders and chief executives had complied with the requirements of the Act.

**(k) The Integrity Commissioner's declarations**

In accordance with s. 80 of the Act I have provided the Speaker with my own declaration of interests and with a declaration covering a related person (my wife).

**(l) The Integrity Committee**

Since 2001, an informal meeting has been convened three or four times a year of what is known as the Integrity Committee. Those invited to attend are the Chair of the Crime and Misconduct Commission, the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman, the chief executive of the Public Service Commission and the Integrity Commissioner. Since 2005 the Information Commissioner has also attended. The group discusses a wide range of ethical and integrity issues, and shares information about their activities. There were four meetings of the group in 2010-2011.

**(m) Office location**

The office of the Integrity Commissioner is on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of 53 Albert Street, Brisbane. The Public Service Commission is on the same floor and provides some technical services to my office. Computer services are provided by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The office building was affected by the Brisbane floods in January 2011 and the office was inaccessible for about two weeks. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet provided some temporary accommodation (including computer access) in the Executive Building, 80 George St Brisbane.

## Summary of requests

### Ethics and integrity issues

Premier and other Ministers	11
Parliamentary Secretaries	1
Other MPs	5
Directors-General	7
Other designated persons	16
<b>Total – Designated Persons</b>	<b>40</b>

### Other issues

<b>Lobbying – formal advice</b>	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>



## Issues considered

The preceding table lists the source of the requests for advice received in the 2010-2011 year. The *Integrity Act* states that my report must not disclose information likely to identify a specific request for my advice on an ethics or integrity issue, including information likely to identify an individual who requested advice, or about whom advice was sought. My predecessors have made one exception, by disclosing requests made by the Premier during the reporting period. I noted last year that I doubted whether this breach could be justified. I decided that it could not. The statistics this year combine any requests that the Premier may have made with requests from other Ministers.

Notwithstanding the secrecy provisions in the Act concerning the requesting of advice and the advice itself it is possible to indicate the general nature of the issues that have been raised by most requests during the year.

Most requests for advice concerned conflicts of interest of various kind, some of which are detailed below. There were also a significant number of requests for advice about restrictions that apply when people cease to hold their current positions and move to other, non-government, employment.

The conflicts issues included:

- Conflicts of interest about post separation employment
- Conflicts of interest arising from the interests of relatives
- Conflicts of interest arising from share holdings
- Conflicts of interest of staff
- Conflicts of interest arising from MP's constituency interests or duties.

## Contribution to public awareness and understanding of ethics or integrity issues

One of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner is “to raise public awareness of ethics or integrity issues by contributing to public discussion of these issues relevant to the Integrity Commissioner’s functions” – s. 7(1)(d) of the *Integrity Act*. As my immediate predecessor, Gary Crooke QC, noted in his final annual report, this is not a mandate to comment at large on any matter of public interest. What the Integrity Commissioner is required to do is discuss “issues relevant to the Integrity Commissioner’s functions”. That said, the mandate is reasonably broad. Ethics or integrity issues are involved in a wide range of matters concerning government structures, practices and policies. I made two submissions, for example, in relation to the development of the new parliamentary committee system.

There are a number of ways in which the Integrity Commissioner may contribute to the relevant public discussion. Perhaps the most basic is by making information available to anyone who is interested through the website, [www.integrity.qld.gov.au](http://www.integrity.qld.gov.au). This site was opened on 6 April 2001. It was updated last year and given a fresh look. Much of the material that was on the site was rewritten, to reflect changes that were brought about in part by the enactment of the *Integrity Act*. It also acquired a complete new section, dealing with lobbyists. The Lobbyists Register is now published on the site and is searchable for registered entities, employed lobbyists and organisations that employ lobbyists to lobby for them.

The website includes papers and presentations by Integrity Commissioners past and present, and the most recent annual reports of the Integrity Commissioner. In the past year there have been almost 54,000 visits to the website. The addition of the Lobbyist Register in January 2010 increased the number of visits in 2009-2010 by about 50 per cent and the probability is that more than half the visits are now related to the lobbying function.

I have given a large number of papers at conferences, in Queensland and interstate, including presentations to –

- Australian Institute of Administrative Law Seminar – Commonwealth Ombudsman’s Office (Brisbane – 6 October 2010)
- Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators (Brisbane – 22 October 2010 and 18 March 2011)
- Inter-departmental Accounting Group (Gold Coast – 17 November 2010)
- Criterion Conferences – *Integrity measures to ensure accountability and transparency of government* – Evolving models of governance and accountability in a changing public sector environment conference (Canberra – 23 February 2011)
- Queensland Environmental Law Association – *Am I (really) a lobbyist?* (Brisbane – 14 March 2011)
- Government Relations Professionals Association – Professional Development Seminar (Brisbane – 22 June 2011).

I have also given presentations to a number of groups within the public service –

- UQ Corporate education course on leadership for SES officers in the Queensland Public Service (Brisbane – 31 August 2010)
- SES Induction Program – *An overview of the new integrity and accountability arrangements for the Queensland Public Service* (Brisbane – 8 September 2010)
- CEO Leadership Team meeting – briefing on *Review of the lobbying provisions of the Integrity Act 2009 and the Lobbyists Code of Conduct* (Brisbane – 16 March 2011)
- As noted earlier I have spoken to Mayors, councillors and/or senior council staff about the application of the lobbying provisions of the *Integrity Act* to local government –
- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (Cairns – 12 July 2010 and 19-20 August 2010)
- Moreton Bay Regional Council (Redcliffe – 15 July 2010)
- Toowoomba Regional Council (Toowoomba – 10 August 2010)
- North Queensland Local Government Association Conference – *Lobbying and Local Government – Recent developments, problems and prospects* (Port Douglas – 4 November 2010)
- Government Owned Corporations – joint presentation with the Crime and Misconduct Commission and Public Service Commission *re lobbying* (Brisbane – 30 November 2010)
- Redland City Council (Cleveland – 16 February 2011)
- Fraser Coast Regional Council (Hervey Bay – 4 March 2011)
- Gladstone Regional Council (Gladstone – 7 March 2011)
- Gold Coast City Council (Gold Coast – 14 March 2011)
- Ipswich City Council (Ipswich – 7 April 2011).

## Staffing for the Integrity Commissioner

Throughout the 2010–2011 financial year, I have been employed on a part-time basis, the equivalent of four days a week, though I am generally in the office (or travelling on official business) on most working days.

The Integrity Commissioner has the support of a full-time Executive Coordinator. The position has been filled for the past seven years by Mrs Mattea Slinger. I am grateful for her extremely capable support.

In January 2010, two additional positions were created within the office. Their occupants are responsible for maintaining the Lobbyists Register. Deborah Clark-Dickson is the Principal Policy Officer (Lobbying). Thina Daffurn, the Research Support Officer (Lobbying), left the office in July 2010 and was replaced the following month by Craig Hunter. Their competence and dedication have ensured that the Lobbyists Register is kept accurate and up-to-date. Most requests for registration are dealt with within two days.



*Craig, Deborah, David and Mattea.*



## Compliance disclosures

The Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service, approved by the Premier for adoption, if appropriate, by public service agencies, is the Code to which the Integrity Commissioner and staff adhere.

A copy of the Records Retention and Disposal Schedule (QDAN 629 v.2) developed for the Queensland Integrity Commissioner and approved by the Queensland State Archivist on 29 November 2010 is available on the Queensland State Archives website, [www.archives.qld.gov.au](http://www.archives.qld.gov.au).

No consultants were used.

No overseas travel was undertaken.

No public interest disclosures under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994* or the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010* were received by the office.

## Right to Information

One request for a document was received but later withdrawn when the requester was informed that any document of the type requested (if it existed) would be exempt under Schedule 1 – “Documents to which this Act does not apply” - of the *Right to Information Act 2009*. Section 6 of that Schedule says -

6 Documents received or created by integrity commissioner for *Integrity Act 2009*, ch 3

A document created, or received, by the Queensland Integrity Commissioner for the *Integrity Act 2009*, chapter 3.

This Annual Report, the Privacy Plan and Statement of Affairs of the Integrity Commissioner are available on the website, [www.integrity.qld.gov.au](http://www.integrity.qld.gov.au).

# Financial statement

Office of the Integrity Commissioner  
Revenue and expenditure  
For the year ended 30 June 2011

	2010/11	2009/10
<b>Revenue from ordinary activities</b>		
Output revenue	626,458	464,466
<b>Total revenue from ordinary activities</b>	<b>626,458</b>	<b>464,466</b>
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities</b>		
<b>Employee Expenses</b>		
Salaries and wages and related costs	367,582	300,275
Salary-related taxes	22,663	18,840
Other employee expenses	2,258	1,014
Superannuation	45,305	33,811
<b>Total employee expenses</b>	<b>437,808</b>	<b>353,940</b>
<b>Supplies and services</b>		
Consultancy and Contractors	-	1,436
Consumables	1,080	3,330
Corporate Technical Services SSP	88,870	-
Building Services	59,122	61,636
Parking	8,824	9,563
Travel costs	18,796	5,104
Telecommunications costs	5,604	5,695
Marketing and public relations	2,726	7,102
Minor plant and equipment	163	14,120
Other administrative expenses	1,145	600
Computer Software Expensed	551	207
Depreciation	973	324
Repairs and maintenance	797	1,410
<b>Total supplies and services</b>	<b>188,650</b>	<b>110,525</b>
<b>Total expenses from ordinary activities</b>	<b>626,458</b>	<b>464,465</b>
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

The Office of the Integrity Commissioner is an independent entity created by Statute.

For reasons of economy and efficiency, funding and administrative support is received through the Public Service Commission. Corporate services and asset replacement have been provided through the Public Service Commission.

Please note that this financial statement has not been subject to audit.