

Integrity Committee Meeting

Tuesday 21 November 2017

2pm-4pm

Office of the Integrity Commissioner
Level 13, 53 Albert Street Brisbane

Attendees:	Nikola Stepanov	Integrity Commissioner (meeting Chair and Secretary)
	Brendan Worrall	Auditor-General
	Phil Clarke	Ombudsman
	Rob Setter	Commission Chief Executive, Public Service Commission
	Rachael Rangihaeata	Information Commissioner
Observers:	David Reed	Director, Legislation and Policy, Public Service Commission
	Nicala Haigh	Principal Policy Officer, Legislation and Policy
Apologies:	Alan MacSporran QC	Chair, Crime and Corruption Commission

MATTERS DISCUSSED

General Update

All of the Integrity Committee agencies have experienced increase in demand for their respective services, and are optimistic that this increased demand has resulted from a heightened public awareness of each agency's functions.

Ombudsman

The Ombudsman proposed the committee consider trialling an inter-office initiative to enhance job satisfaction among staff of the public service. The initiative involves extending to all staff in the offices of members of the Integrity Committee any expressions of interests to fill vacancies within a particular office.

This would provide staff with opportunities to upskill and diversify, thereby enhancing job satisfaction. As well, it would promote a more effective and flexible use of the existing workforce, and ensure that any gaps in demand can be met.

Commission Chief Executive, Public Service Commission

Commission Chief Executive, Mr Rob Setter, commenced his term on 29 June 2017. He had previously been acting in the role.

A key focus of the Public Service Commission is on 'future of work' and future vision as set out in Queensland Public Service *10 Year Human Capital Outlook* and *3 Year Human Capital Strategic Roadmap*. Another key area of interest is addressing gender pay inequality.

Auditor General

The new Auditor General, Mr Brendan Worrall, commenced his term in July 2017.

The Queensland Audit Office underwent a Strategic Review in 2017. The report was tabled before the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) on March 23, 2017, and will be further considered in 2018.

Information Commissioner

The Commissioner advised that a Strategic Review had been undertaken and that the outcomes of Strategic Review were overwhelmingly positive. Ten recommendations were made including that OIC be given permanent funding for external review staff, restructure of corporate services and legislative changes.

Key future areas of interest for the commission focussed on are formalising communications and engagement strategy to help engage remote communities and agencies; and enhancing career progression, including through secondments, working with other agencies such as those of the Integrity Committee.

The role of the Right to Information Commissioner had been advertised recently and recruitment is currently underway.

Integrity Commissioner

The new Commissioner, Dr Nikola Stepanov, commenced her term on 1 July 2017.

Currently more than 5000 persons fall under the *Integrity Act 2009* and are able to seek advice from the Integrity Commissioner.

There has been a significant increase in the number of formal advices being sought. The main areas are conflicts of interest and conflicts between duties.

A review of the resourcing and structure of the office is now being undertaken to ensure sufficient resourcing to diligently fulfil the current obligations of the Commissioner under the Integrity Act, and to take into account predicted future demands.

One of the key functions is to raise public awareness about the role of Integrity Commissioner, and the importance of integrity in government generally. The Commissioner is committed to promoting awareness through regular workshops, seminars, and other methods of education and training.