

Public Statement

RESPONSE TO INSPECTOR'S REVIEW

26 September 2023

Statement by the Hon. Ann Vanstone KC Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Having regard to the Commission's role in promoting integrity in public administration, and detecting and dealing with corruption when it occurs, it is essential that the public has confidence in the Commission. For this reason, I have prepared a report in response to the Inspector's findings and recommendations in his report, *Review of the Investigation and Prosecution of Mr John Hanlon*.

In his report, the Inspector made fair criticisms of the Commission as well as four recommendations for improving our processes and systems. I do not step away from those criticisms and I have accepted the recommendations in principle. I had also undertaken my own earlier review of this matter and as a result had implemented a number of improvements to the way we operate.

In essence, the substantive errors in the investigation of Mr Hanlon stemmed from inadequate planning for a trip to Germany by investigators. The failures that came thereafter were serious. As a result, a matter that should have been adjudicated at trial has not been, and the Commission's reputation has been damaged; both of which are matters of regret.

My report also deals with the persistent falsehoods perpetuated about this matter. Despite those falsehoods being dealt with by the Inspector in his report, they continue to be made in some sections of the media. I encourage everyone to read my report and the Inspector's report to understand whether the Commission did unreasonably commence an investigation, *doctor* evidence, or if the whistleblowers were *vexatious underlings*.

The Commission has matured a great deal in the four years since this investigation. As an agency we are committed to continuous improvement. I thank the Inspector for his insights and the considered way in which his review was conducted.

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