

Evaluation of TAFE SA

Published 31.03.2022

During an evaluation the practices, policies and procedures of an agency are reviewed with a view to improving systems for preventing and minimising corruption.

What is an evaluation?

The Independent Commission Against Corruption may evaluate an agency's practices, policies and procedures with a view to improving systems for preventing and minimising corruption.

An evaluation is **not** an investigation and is not concerned with specific allegations of impropriety.

Previous evaluations have proved valuable, both for individual agencies in strengthening their systems to prevent corruption, and for public administration more broadly. Information about past evaluations can be accessed at <https://www.icac.sa.gov.au/evaluations-and-reviews>.

If the evaluation identifies conduct that might require investigation, that conduct will be dealt with separately and may be referred to the Office for Public Integrity or the South Australian Ombudsman for assessment.

Why is TAFE SA being evaluated?

TAFE SA plays an important role in delivering higher education and vocational education and training services to more than 60, 000 students in South Australia. Given the environment in which it operates and the functions it performs, it is essential that TAFE SA has effective systems in place to prevent corruption.

What is the scope of the evaluation?

The evaluation will examine:

- 1) The extent to which TAFE SA's governance framework adequately guards against the risks of corruption.
- 2) TAFE SA's practices, policies and procedures in respect of:
 - a) Human resources management
 - b) Procurement and contract management
 - c) Asset and facilities managementand whether practices, policies and procedures provide effective controls against corruption.
- 3) The manner in which TAFE SA claims and reports on the subsidy payments it receives from government.
- 4) The framework in place to manage relationships between staff and students and whether those processes are adequate to guard against inappropriate enrolments, assessments, qualifications, and awards of licenses, certificates, diplomas and associate degrees.

The evaluation is not concerned with matters relating to the quality of TAFE SA's courses.

The Commission may amend the terms of reference following the receipt and consideration of materials gathered.

How can I participate in the evaluation?

A **staff and student survey** will be available between May and June 2022. Participation is voluntary and survey responses are anonymous.

Staff and other relevant stakeholders will be invited to make a written submission to the evaluation and may be invited to attend a meeting with the evaluation team (or can request a meeting).

Members of the public will also be invited to make a written submission to the evaluation.

What if the evaluation team wants to meet with me?

If you receive a meeting request from the evaluation team, please don't be alarmed. The meetings are intended to provide staff with an opportunity to inform the evaluation team about relevant practices, policies and procedures of TAFE SA.

Meetings will be scheduled in June and July 2022. Your participation in a meeting is voluntary but you are encouraged to take the opportunity to share your knowledge and experiences with the evaluation team. We want to hear what you think TAFE SA is doing well and where you think there are opportunities to improve.

How do I request to meet with the evaluation team?

Meetings with the evaluation team will be scheduled during June and July 2022. If you do not receive a meeting request but would like to meet with the evaluation team, please contact evaluation@icac.sa.gov.au to arrange a time.

How do I make a written submission?

The Commission will invite staff, students, and members of the public to make a submission. The Commissioner will provide further details to staff about how to make a submission.

You are invited to make any written submission you think relevant to evaluation's terms of reference.

Is the information I provide confidential?

Any information you provide will be treated confidentially. This includes information provided through the survey, during a meeting, or in a written submission. We will use information provided to us to inform general comments in the final report. However, we will not publish written submissions from staff members.

While we take every step to protect a person's confidentiality, we cannot guarantee it. We are obliged to comply with any lawful obligation to disclose information collected.

If you have any concerns about confidentiality, please contact a member of the evaluation team via email (evaluation@icac.sa.gov.au) or on (08) 8463 5199.

Can I tell anyone what I have discussed with the ICAC?

The *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012* prevents a person who receives information knowing that it is connected with an evaluation from disclosing that information unless they are authorised to do so by the Commissioner, or for specific purposes permitted by section 54 of the ICAC Act.

Should you wish to disclose information other than for a purpose already permitted by the ICAC Act, please speak to a member of the evaluation team.

What if I have previously made a complaint or report about TAFE SA?

Complaints and reports are dealt with separately to an evaluation. This includes complaints and reports which have been made to the Office for Public Integrity or the South Australian Ombudsman.




Am I bound by existing professional confidentiality obligations in relation to information I wish to provide to the evaluation team?

There is no provision in the ICAC Act that releases you from any obligation of professional confidentiality you may have as an employee. If you are in doubt about whether you can disclose certain information to the evaluation team, you should consult your manager.

How long will the evaluation take?

The Commission expects to deliver its report to both Houses of Parliament in early 2023.

CONTACT US

-  GENERAL ENQUIRIES
(08) 8463 5191
-  LEVEL 1, 55 CURRIE ST
ADELAIDE SA 5000
-  @ICAC_SA

ICAC.SA.GOV.AU



ICAC

Independent Commission
Against Corruption
SOUTH AUSTRALIA