Taskforce Flaxton Inquiry

Terms of Reference

Context

The Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) has received a number of allegations of corrupt conduct within Queensland corrective services facilities.\(^1\) The allegations involve a range of conduct including, but not limited to, assault/use of excessive force; misuse of authority to benefit (oneself or another) or to cause detriment (including harassment); failure of duty (including failures to comply with legal, policy or reporting obligations); misuse of information; and drug-related offences. The number of allegations has been increasing and it is reasonable to also suspect a level of non-reporting in the sector.

In discharging its corruption function, the CCC has conducted investigations of alleged corrupt conduct within Queensland corrective services facilities. As a result of investigations conducted, a number of possible systemic issues have been identified. Taskforce Flaxton will examine these issues with a view to raising standards of integrity relevant to: detecting, managing and preventing corruption risks associated with corrective services facilities and managing prisoners under the Corrective Services Act 2006; and the way allegations of suspected corrupt conduct against correctional officers (and others) are dealt with by Queensland Corrective Services and engaged service providers.\(^2\)

Objectives of the Public Hearing Component of Taskforce Flaxton

Pursuant to sections 176 and 177(2)(c)(ii) of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Commission authorises and approves the holding of public hearings in relation to Taskforce Flaxton.

The CCC public hearing is examining:

1) Corruption and risks of corruption in Queensland corrective services facilities (including 14 prisons (two managed under private contracts), and work camps).

2) Features of the legislative, policy and operational environment that may enable corrupt conduct to occur or are vulnerable to corrupt conduct.

3) Reforms to better prevent, detect and deal with corrupt conduct within Queensland corrective services facilities.

Public Report

The CCC will issue a public report on the outcomes of Taskforce Flaxton.

Alan John MacSporran QC

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\(^1\) Under Schedule 4 of the Corrective Services Act 2006 (CS Act) ‘corrective services facility’ means a prison, a community corrections centre or a work camp.

\(^2\) Pursuant to s. 273(2) of the CS Act, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 applies to an engaged service provider prescribed under a regulation as if (i) the provider were a unit of public administration; and (ii) the holder of a specified office, prescribed under a regulation, of the provider, were the chief executive officer of the provider; and (iii) a person employed by the provider were a person holding an appointment in a unit of public administration.