

14. EXTERNAL LIAISON

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

The Commission has maintained its close liaison with the Office of the Special Prosecutor throughout the period of this Report. The Office of General Counsel has remained the focal point in providing the Special Prosecutor with support and assistance in respect of his investigation and prosecution functions arising from the Fitzgerald Inquiry.

OTHER AGENCIES

The Commission stated in its first Annual Report that it considers itself to be part of the national fabric of the administration of criminal justice. For this reason it has continued to foster close working relationships with other agencies having common functions, responsibilities and goals. Because the Commission is required to discharge the functions and responsibilities usually undertaken by a number of different agencies, the list of such agencies is extensive. In addition to the QPS, the agencies with which it has established a close liaison to date have included the NCA, the ICAC, the NSWCC, the Cash Transaction Reports Agency, the AFP, the ABCI, other State and Territory police and intelligence agencies, the new Australian Securities Commission, the Australian Custom Service and the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs.

In accordance with its responsibility for taking such action as it considers necessary or desirable in respect of such matters as are in its opinion pertinent to the administration of criminal justice, the Commission has provided operational support and disseminated information to these other agencies.

Director of Prosecutions (Qld)

Full and frank discussions have been had with the Director of Prosecutions about issues of mutual interest.

The Commission has adopted the Director's requirements as to the principles applying when considering whether to give a potential witness an opportunity to seek an indemnity and the form of application which should be made through the Director to the Attorney-General.

South Australian Anti Corruption Authority

The South Australian Anti Corruption Authority advised that as the result of a meeting with the Commission, it had introduced a number of new concepts.

Liaison with Units of Public Administration

Liaison meetings have been held with Principal Officers of units of public administration (in addition to the QPS) as to their obligations under the Act and their interaction with the Commission.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

The Intelligence Division has important external liaison functions which are referred to in Chapter 5 of this Report—"Intelligence Division".

Section 6.7 of the Act provides for confidentiality to be maintained for information that has come into the possession of the Commission or staff of the Commission in the course of discharging a function under the Act.

The Commission however considers itself to be part of a national law enforcement effort and recognises the need for close working relationships and exchange of information in accordance with, and for the purposes of, the Act.

Memoranda of Understanding

The Commission has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with the following agencies in respect of joint operations and information sharing:

- Queensland Police Service
- Victoria Police Service
- NSW Crime Commission
- Australian Federal Police

In addition, there is a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence about the dissemination of criminal intelligence.

Membership of Committees and Working Parties

The Office of General Counsel represents the Commission on a number of review committees and working parties as referred to in Chapter 8 of this Report—"Office of General Counsel".

The Research and Co-ordination Division is represented on seven (7) similar bodies.

The Acting Director of the Intelligence Division attends meetings of the QPS Counter Terrorism Section Control Committee and sits on the Committee reviewing the operations of the QPS Information Bureau. Also, the Intelligence Division is represented on the Steering Committee for development of a Queensland Intelligence Database (QUID).

A full list of external committees and working groups is given in Appendix N.

15. PUBLIC EDUCATION

MEDIA RELATIONS

The Commission's Media Liaison Officer dealt with hundreds of calls from the media over the last 12 months.

Many were in relation to investigations being carried out by the Commission and consequently were subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Act.

Those that were not were dealt with as expeditiously and fully as possible.

Since the first public hearing of the Commission was held in October 1990, the media has been in regular attendance, with all hearings receiving wide publicity, and the Commission giving whatever assistance it could.

It is fair to say a significant degree of trust has been established between the Commission and the media, through the Media Liaison Officer, in the last 12 months.

The very nature of the role and activities of the Commission, and its confidentiality provisions, creates a delicate balance in its relations with the media, and it is vital that it be maintained.

The Commission believes this has been achieved.

COUNTRY CIRCUITS

The Chairman and senior officers of the Commission visited a number of regional centres during the period under review. Officers attached to the Complaints Section also undertook, in the course of their investigative duties, to visit the regional centres of rural Queensland. The Commission intends to maintain this very important link in the future.

COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

A list of Commission publications is given in Appendix M.

In addition, a number of confidential Reports, originating in the complaints and official misconduct areas, were forwarded to principal officers of various units of public administration in respect of investigations.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES

A list of addresses presented by officers of the Commission is attached as Appendix C.

