

# Chairperson's report

This is my first annual report as CMC Chairperson. For many years I have observed the work of the CMC as a community member; now I have the opportunity to see it from a different perspective. Until I came here I did not appreciate the breadth of activities undertaken by the Commission, so I am pleased to present an Annual Report which sets out in detail the range and value of the work we do.

## Crime and law enforcement

The contribution of our Crime area is not perhaps as widely recognised as it should be. It plays an important role in responding to issues that are of vital concern to Queenslanders: the encroaching of crime into our communities, the presence of illicit drugs, the safety of children.

As you will read in the report, this year we targeted cocaine trafficking in South-East Queensland, uncovered a widespread illicit drug distribution network stretching from Melbourne to Cairns, and targeted child sex tourism. We produced reports on Queensland's illicit drug market and other organised crime issues such as money laundering and fraud. During 2009–10, witnesses protected by the CMC gave evidence in cases that included drug production and trafficking, serious property crime, attempted murder, extortion and assault.

All this demonstrates an impressive capability, one now significantly enhanced by telecommunications interception powers. Our success means we are being asked to do more each year. Demand from the Queensland Police Service for our coercive hearings power and our proceeds of crime recovery services continued to grow. This year the CMC passed the significant milestone of \$100 million in assets restrained since civil confiscation legislation commenced in 2002. We see no sign of this trend coming to an end.

In all these undertakings I would highlight the increasing importance of our partnerships with other law enforcement agencies in our fight against organised crime. Although our significant partner is the Queensland Police Service, we also work and share intelligence with specialist units from various state, federal and international law enforcement agencies wherever we identify crime risks. If crime is not confined by borders, we cannot be either.

## Public sector accountability

Our Misconduct area marked a year of significant achievements. We received a record 4665 complaints this year, the highest since the creation of the CMC, and reviewed over 300 individual complaints dealt with by public sector agencies and the QPS. A former Minister was jailed for receiving secret commissions and we held a public hearing into allegations of official misconduct involving a former ministerial adviser. More than 500 delegates came to Brisbane from around Australia and overseas for the second biennial Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference.

Our jurisdiction was increased: the CMC will now have oversight over 12 government-owned corporations employing 11 000 staff statewide. The advent of the new *Local Government Act 2009* gave impetus to training councillors, council staff, and tribunal and panel members, particularly in dealing with conflicts of interest. In view of Queensland's rapid population growth and major investment in infrastructure projects, we are working closely with the local government sector to manage any potential for misconduct.

This expansion is part of an environment in which high standards of integrity on the part of those in public office are increasingly demanded by the community. To keep pace, we have to be more proactive and strategic and, in some areas, less operational. I believe we need to constantly scan the whole public sector to be aware of trends and early warning signs, and to educate, guide and inform accordingly. This year we renamed our Complaints Services area to Integrity Services to better reflect the breadth of our role. That means not simply handling or investigating allegations ourselves (although we will always act to safeguard the public interest), but also actively supporting public agencies, subject to our oversight, in being more accountable for managing and preventing misconduct by their staff.

## Police oversight

Our responsibilities as the police oversight body have been a major focus for us this year.

At the beginning of this financial year our report into police misconduct, *Dangerous liaisons*, generated considerable public interest. In November last year we tabled our report on policing in remote Indigenous communities, and the state government has adopted many of our recommendations.



During the year we undertook a review of the police disciplinary system, and in mid-June we tabled our review of the QPS's *Palm Island Review*.

We continue to hold police accountable for any improper exercise of their powers. Our monitoring of complaints against police identified concerns about the QPS's handling of a number of allegations of assault. It is good to report that, following our representations to senior QPS management, we are seeing improvement in that area.

Finally, during the year the CMC has been working with the QPS investigating police misconduct on the Gold Coast (Operation Tesco). Given that both *Dangerous liaisons* and Tesco have highlighted failures of supervision, I have been heartened by the commitment of local commanders to addressing these issues. Police at all levels must be prepared to step up and take responsibility for the integrity of their organisation — the reputation of the Service is in their hands.

### Governance and leadership

I would like to thank my predecessor Robert Needham, who retired in December 2009, for his contribution to the objectives of the CMC. I hope to build on these foundations and trust that my management team and I retain the public confidence earned by my predecessors.

The CMC has had some changes in its leadership group, as this year we welcomed two new Assistant Commissioners. In September 2009, Assistant Commissioner Peter Barron joined the CMC as Director, Witness Protection and Operations Support, bringing more than 37 years of distinguished service with the QPS. In June 2010, Warren Strange returned as Assistant Commissioner, Misconduct, bringing extensive legal and administrative experience.

At a time when other states are exploring models for new integrity bodies, I believe Queensland is very fortunate to have a crime and integrity agency that is long established and well known to the community. However, it is equally important that we keep pace with change, and regularly reassess our organisational strengths and weaknesses.

### Improving efficiency

Workforce management planning was a key focus during this financial year to build the organisation's capacity to manage an increasing workload.

The CMC has continued to embrace new technology to increase our efficiency. New in-house systems for HR/payroll and records management have been put in place, and our website is being redeveloped to better engage with our stakeholders, make our publishing more efficient and reduce our environmental footprint. We are aiming for wider reach, ease of access and more timely production.

### Next year

For the CMC to be most effective, we need the cooperation of the public sector and the police service at all levels. We are also developing and consolidating our relationships with other integrity bodies in Queensland, and in other states and the Commonwealth. It's not possible to fight organised crime and corruption on our own — we must work together as we all have a role to play. I look forward to building on those partnerships in the next 12 months.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Martin Moynihan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Martin Moynihan  
September 2010