

Our operating environment

The CMC pursues its primary functions to combat major crime and promote integrity in the public sector within a larger environment comprising social, economic, political and regulatory factors. This section outlines external factors that were significant for the work of the CMC in 2011–12.

Technological change

Continuous rapid change in technology and its prevalence at every level of society was a continuing challenge, requiring the CMC to be able to forensically deal with technologies ranging from the latest consumer equipment to the most sophisticated encryption devices.

In particular, the rapid evolution of internet-enabled major crime is challenging traditional approaches to crime identification, monitoring and investigation. Law enforcement agencies must understand the new technologies, identify vulnerabilities and develop new and innovative law enforcement responses.

Similarly, traditional jurisdictions and legislative frameworks are being severely challenged by the increasing borderlessness of major crime (see more detail in our Crime reporting, pages 10–20).

Changed political and administrative environments

The holding of both state and local government elections in 2012 brought new exchanges and discussions at many levels.

In local government, the 2012 elections saw 59 per cent of mayors and 51 per cent of councillors newly elected to their roles. All newcomers will undoubtedly bring new perspectives to integrity issues while learning their roles. Some in resource-rich areas may also be confronting risks and pressures associated with rapid economic development. This significantly changed environment will require vigilance and targeted response from the CMC.

At the state government level, considerable machinery of government change has occurred. This includes a strong trend toward decentralising administrative arrangements, which is necessarily altering the structures and relationships through which the CMC has previously dealt with government agencies to promote integrity and prevent misconduct. Meeting this challenge effectively will require the CMC to develop new and innovative ways to engage effectively with regionally based decision makers.

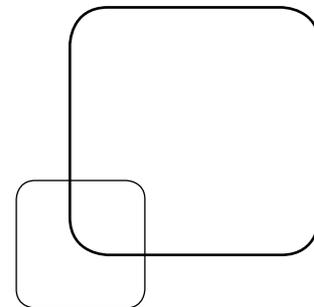
Pressure on public resourcing

The year has also seen a tightening fiscal environment generally, and pressure on public resourcing. This was given further impetus from April 2012 with the newly elected state government placing high priority on revitalising frontline services while achieving cost savings across the public service, particularly through reviewing all appointments and related resourcing. In this environment, strategies that advance the efficiency and economy of operations in the CMC and across the public sector are vital.

Review of the CMC

In 2011–12 the all-party Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee, which oversees the CMC, carried out its three-yearly review of the organisation. The resulting report, published in May 2012, commended the CMC on the excellent results achieved in tackling its principal areas of responsibility through its current organisational structure. It made 38 recommendations, including that resource issues in several high-demand areas be addressed, that efforts to further improve timeliness be pursued and that legislative amendment required to support enhancements to the Police Complaints, Discipline and Misconduct System be put in place.

The government has advised that it will respond to the recommendations in 2012–13. The three-year review report can be found at: www.parliament.qld.gov.au.



The CMC's powers

The Crime and Misconduct Commission has unique powers in Queensland, allowing us to acquire evidence to combat crime and misconduct falling within our jurisdiction. Through these powers we are able to hold public inquiries and conduct coercive hearings. We can also undertake a range of searches, surveillance activities, seizures and telecommunications interceptions in prescribed circumstances.

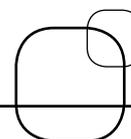
The CMC was provided with telecommunication interception powers in 2009. Through this initiative it achieved comparability with like agencies in other Australian jurisdictions. A memorandum of understanding with our Commonwealth agency provider for continued interim

telecommunications interception capability was agreed during the year. Increased capacity and capabilities were also tested and implemented.

Use of our powers in 2011–12

The CMC has used its powers to:

- ensure productive Misconduct investigations and Crime hearings
- progress investigations into major crime
- facilitate the finalisation of proceeds of crime matters.



Our stakeholders

