

From a spokesman for the Attorney-General:

- The Government is delivering on its commitment to establish a Commonwealth Integrity Commission (CIC), with funding already in place for when the CIC legislation is passed.
- The Government has made available its proposed model through exposure draft legislation released in late-2020.
- To date, the Government has committed ongoing funding to the CIC, expanded ACLEI's jurisdiction as stage one of implementation of the CIC, and conducted extensive national consultation on exposure draft legislation to establish the CIC.
- The CIC will be the lead agency in Australia's multi agency anti-corruption framework and build on the already strong anti-corruption arrangements that exist at the Commonwealth level.
- The CIC would be a specialist investigation body for the most serious forms of criminal corruption with the resources and powers necessary to fulfil that role. It would have greater powers than a Royal Commission, including coercive powers to compel the provision of information and answer questions, telecommunications interception and surveillance devices, and search and arrest powers.
- At the same time, it would have appropriate safeguards to protect the rights and reputations of the people it investigates and robust oversight through an independent Inspector-General and a dedicated Parliamentary committee.
- The CIC will investigate the most serious criminal conduct that threatens good public administration, instead of duplicating the roles of the existing bodies that investigate other forms of corruption, such as the Australian National Audit Office and the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority, among others.
- The Government's model will allow the CIC to investigate a broad range of criminal corrupt conduct that may involve the public sector. This includes over 145 existing and new criminal offences, such as bribery, fraud, and abuse of public office.
- Ultimately, the decision whether to investigate a specific matter would be a decision for the CIC and would depend on all of the available facts.
- A Commonwealth anti-corruption body must strike a balance between effectively dealing with the most serious forms of corruption in the public sector while ensuring appropriate checks and balances are in place.

From a spokesman for the Attorney-General:

- * The Government is committed to passing its Commonwealth Integrity Commission legislation, which has been subject to years of consultation and is publicly available. Unfortunately the Labor Party have ruled out supporting our legislation for political reasons.
- * Should the Labor Party decide to stop playing politics on this matter and agree to pass our legislation, we would be happy to work with them to ensure quick passage through the Parliament.
- * Reports today that the Attorney-General has ruled out introducing the legislation before the election are false.