

We have been given these powers to enable us to gather vital evidence and information in the fight against crime and corruption. As a result, we may:

- » require people to give us relevant information
- » compel the production of relevant records and other things
- » enter and search premises
- » seize evidence
- » use surveillance devices
- » intercept telecommunications.

We must apply to the Supreme Court or other independent external authorities before exercising some of our powers, and the Public Interest Monitor examines our applications for covert search warrants, surveillance warrants and telecommunications interception warrants.

How do matters come to us?

Crime matters are referred to us by the Crime Reference Committee, which includes community representatives as well as the CMC Chairperson and the Commissioner of Police.

Misconduct matters come to our attention in various ways: as complaints from members of the public via letters, faxes, emails and telephone calls; from whistleblowers and anonymous sources; or from the CMC's own activities or intelligence sources. Many come from CEOs of public sector agencies who have a statutory obligation to inform the CMC of any suspected official misconduct occurring in their own agency.

Witnesses needing protection may be considered for the program as a result of helping the CMC or be referred to us from other law enforcement agencies.

How can you help us?

Everyone has a role to play in the fight against crime and misconduct because these things hurt us all. Our success depends on your support. Please contact us if you have any information that may help us.

Further information

Contact us if you wish to receive more information on the CMC, give us information, lodge a complaint, or inquire about our publications:

by telephone 07 3360 6060

toll free 1800 061 611
(in Queensland outside Brisbane)

by fax 07 3360 6333

by email mailbox@cmc.qld.gov.au

by writing to GPO Box 3123
Brisbane Qld 4001

in person Level 2, North Tower Green Square
515 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley.

If making a complaint in person, please ring first for an appointment.

You can learn more about us by visiting our website
<www.cmc.qld.gov.au>.

For further information about our overseeing body, the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee, contact the committee directly at:

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Tel. 07 3406 7207
Fax 07 3210 6011.

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THE CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION

WHO WE ARE AND
WHAT WE DO

*Fighting crime and
promoting integrity
in Queensland*

CRIME AND
MISCONDUCT
COMMISSION



QUEENSLAND

AUGUST 2010

Who we are

The Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) is a specialist agency set up to fight major crime and enhance public sector integrity in Queensland. There is no similar institution in Australia with the CMC's breadth and depth of functions. Our charter is to:

- » investigate organised crime, paedophilia, terrorist activity and other serious crime referred to us for investigation
- » work with public sector agencies, including the Queensland Police Service (QPS), to fight misconduct, including corruption
- » investigate cases of potentially serious misconduct
- » help recover the proceeds of crime for the people of Queensland
- » provide the witness protection service for the state of Queensland
- » conduct research on crime, policing and public policy matters.

The CMC's continued existence is a reassurance to Queenslanders that in this state we have a vigilant independent body striving to keep our public institutions ethical and accountable, our police honest and efficient, our children safe, and our communities as free as possible from corruption and organised crime.

Our structure

The CMC is headed by a five-member Commission comprising the Chairperson, who is also the CEO, and four part-time Commissioners who represent the community.

About 300 people work at the CMC, including lawyers, investigators, police, social scientists, financial investigators, intelligence analysts, IT and surveillance specialists, administrators and support officers.

While independent of the government of the day, the CMC is accountable to the people of Queensland through the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee (PCMC), an all-party committee that monitors and reviews our activities and deals with complaints against us.

What we do

Combat crime

The CMC makes an important contribution to the fight against crime through our investigations, intelligence gathering, research and prevention activities.

We work in partnership with the QPS and other agencies to dismantle and disrupt organised crime networks. We also target paedophiles who are networked or use the internet to prey on children, and help police investigate unsolved serious crimes such as murder or arson.

We also administer the part of the *Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002* under which the proceeds of crime are recovered in civil proceedings.

However, we are not an alternative police service. We use our special powers, expertise and resources to make a significant contribution to law enforcement which complements the efforts of other law enforcement agencies, especially the QPS.

Promote a trustworthy public sector

Our jurisdiction includes all state government departments and government-owned corporations, the QPS, local governments, most public sector agencies and statutory bodies, universities, courts, prisons, tribunals, and elected officials.

We receive and assess complaints alleging misconduct in public agencies. We refer most to agencies for handling and monitor how they deal with them. We continue to investigate cases of serious misconduct ourselves. In these ways we safeguard public confidence in the integrity of government agencies while encouraging them to take responsibility for the integrity of their own workplaces.

The CMC is not a court, nor can we discipline anyone as a result of a misconduct investigation. We can, however, refer matters to the Director of Public Prosecutions with a view to criminal prosecution, to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to consider, or to a CEO to consider disciplinary action.

Our misconduct prevention and capacity-building activities help agencies reduce their risk of corruption by improving their internal controls, accountability and integrity of their operations.

Witness protection

We protect people who are in danger as a result of assisting a law enforcement agency such as the QPS. They include victims of crime, innocent bystanders to a crime, and people who have inside information about criminal or corrupt activity.

Witness protection can involve relocating the person (including creating a new identity). It may also extend to the relatives and associates of the person. The program operates under the *Witness Protection Act 2000*.

Research and intelligence activities

Our crime and misconduct functions depend on high-quality research and intelligence services. We conduct research into policing, illicit drugs, paedophilia and crime prevention.

We also conduct research into criminal justice issues referred to us by our minister, or required by legislation.

To gain a better understanding of the criminal environment currently operating in Queensland and to make forecasts about future trends, we maintain an intelligence-gathering and analysis service. We use this information to develop strategies to help prevent and detect crime and misconduct.

Our powers

The CMC has the same powers as the QPS, plus extra ones not held by other Queensland law enforcement agencies — including the power to conduct coercive hearings.