



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Former ABF Officer sentenced to 2.5 years in prison and ordered to repay a total of \$93,898.75 for corrupt and criminal offences**

*OPERATION ADELAIDE: R v Pablo OLIVARES (Brisbane District Court)*

**Monday, 23 August 2021 (immediate release)**

A former Australian Border Force (ABF) officer, Pablo Olivares, has pled guilty to criminal offences including 2 counts of forgery and 3 counts of theft totalling \$93,898.75 during the period between 5 July 2016 and 20 June 2017.

These matters were the result of a joint investigation by the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) and the Department of Home Affairs that found Mr Olivares made 134 unauthorised cash withdrawals, several unauthorised hotel bookings and an unauthorised car rental booking on his corporate credit card.

The Integrity Commissioner and head of ACLEI, Ms Jaala Hinchliffe welcomed the conviction, saying, “The former ABF officer used his position to obtain a financial benefit and cause a detriment by defrauding the Commonwealth. Mr Olivares deliberately used his official powers and discretions for an improper purpose in numerous instances.”

During the course of the investigation, the extent of the offending became apparent.

Operation Adelaide uncovered evidence that Mr Olivares also uploaded 13 false medical certificates to cover periods of sick leave and submitted 2 false Statutory Declarations to substantiate charges made to his corporate credit card, purportedly signed and witnessed by a colleague.

“Providing false documents and forging signatures is a deliberate act of dishonesty, which is incompatible with the impartial exercise of an officer’s powers, authorities, duties or functions,” said Ms Hinchliffe.

This morning, in the Brisbane District Court, Mr Olivares was sentenced to 2.5 years imprisonment, to be released after he has served a period of 5 months conditional upon him entering into a recognizance in the sum of \$1,000 and being of good behaviour for a period of 3 years. Mr Olivares was also ordered to repay the total of \$93,898.75.

Potential corrupt activity was initially detected by Mr Olivares’ supervisor who was tasked with completing his outstanding monthly credit card acquittals while Mr Olivares was on personal leave. Mr Olivares was stood down from his duties and a few months later, he formally resigned from ABF.

#### **About the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI)**

ACLEI is committed to preventing and investigating corruption issues relating to Commonwealth law enforcement agencies. ACLEI supports the Integrity Commissioner to provide independent assurance to government about the integrity of prescribed law enforcement agencies and their staff members. The office of the [Integrity Commissioner](#) and ACLEI are established by the [Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006](#) (the LEIC Act). For more information, visit ACLEI’s website: [www.aclei.gov.au](http://www.aclei.gov.au)

---

Please direct all enquiries regarding this media release to: [media@aclei.gov.au](mailto:media@aclei.gov.au)