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# Operation Heritage: Investigation Report released by the Integrity Commissioner

Today, the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) published the report of the former Integrity Commissioner, Mr Philip Moss AM, on Operation Heritage, a joint investigation by ACLEI, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the former Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS). The investigation examined allegations that officers of the ACBPS were assisting in the importation of border-controlled substances, including pseudoephedrine, at Sydney International Airport.

The investigation resulted in prosecutions of eight former Commonwealth officials and resulted in seven convictions and one prosecution where the charge was proven and the defendant discharged without conviction.

The investigation was completed in 2014, however, the former Integrity Commissioner's report was not released at that time as several officers were awaiting trial for charges laid as a result of the investigation.

The corruption related offences under the *Criminal Code* (Cth) laid as a result of Operation Heritage included abuse of office, dishonestly intending to influence a Commonwealth official, aiding and abetting the importation of a border controlled precursor, receiving a bribe by a Commonwealth official, receiving a corrupting benefit by a Commonwealth official, and providing false or misleading information.

The sentences imposed ranged from release without passing sentence to imprisonment for a period of 14 years.

The current Integrity Commissioner, Ms Jaala Hinchcliffe, said officials working in border protection and drug detection environments are particularly vulnerable to corruption. "Operation Heritage demonstrates the important oversight role of ACLEI and the effectiveness of joint investigations, as well as the tools at our disposal to investigate and prosecute corruption."

Since 2014, the Department of Home Affairs and the Australian Border Force have implemented changes to address the corruption vulnerabilities identified in Operation Heritage.

The Integrity Commissioner noted ACLEI would continue to work with law enforcement agencies to implement corruption prevention strategies and to strengthen integrity.

The Investigation Report for Operation Heritage is available on the [ACLEI website](#).

### **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

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

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](#). For more information, visit ACLEI's website: [aclei.gov.au](http://aclei.gov.au)