



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **OPERATION TONE: ACLEI investigation report released**

*Integrity Commissioner finds no corruption following an investigation into serious allegations about the alleged release of sensitive law enforcement information*

**Thursday, 7 October 2021 (immediate release)**

Integrity Commissioner and head of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI), Jaala Hinchcliffe, has today published her report on Operation Tone, with no findings of corruption.

Operation Tone was an ACLEI investigation into a potential corruption issue involving the alleged release of sensitive law enforcement information by an unidentified Australian Federal Police (AFP) member.

It was alleged that the unidentified AFP member disclosed information about an AFP investigation into the importation of a commercial quantity of cocaine. The AFP's investigation led to the prosecution of at least one individual.

ACLEI was investigating an allegation that the AFP member disclosed information to an associate, a lawyer acting for one of the accused. ACLEI investigators did not find any evidence of an unlawful disclosure having taken place, and therefore, the Integrity Commissioner did not make any findings of corruption.

Ms Hinchcliffe said, "I note the seriousness of the allegations that were made, but I am satisfied that the investigation has not identified any evidence of corrupt conduct by an AFP member."

There was also no evidence that the person who was the subject of the AFP's investigation benefited from an inappropriate or unlawful disclosure of law enforcement information. The evidence was to the contrary. They were prosecuted and convicted for their role in the importation.

"If a staff member of a law enforcement agency unlawfully disclosed sensitive law enforcement information, it would equate to corruption. It would be an abuse of office, which usually involves corrupt conduct in return for a benefit or to assist another person."

While the Integrity Commissioner did not make any findings of corruption, she noted the importance of investigating allegations such as those raised in this matter, to identify and deal with corrupt conduct or to provide assurance that the alleged corrupt conduct has not occurred.

The Investigation Report for Operation Tone 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 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)

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