



MEDIA STATEMENT

OPERATION ANGOVE

2 April 2020 (immediate release)

The Integrity Commissioner, Jaala Hinchcliffe, has decided not to conduct public hearings in relation to ACLEI's Operation Angove.

The Integrity Commissioner stated "The investigation has progressed significantly since public hearings were announced in October 2019 and a significant amount of material has been collected by ACLEI investigators using powers under the *Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006* (LEIC Act)."

"Given the progress of the investigation, I have considered whether any further hearings are required to obtain information for this investigation. I have decided that there is no further information that needs to be obtained using the hearing power under my Act, and, accordingly, have decided not to conduct public hearings." said Ms Hinchcliffe.

ACLEI investigators are currently finalising the last lines of inquiry in relation to Operation Angove. The investigation will then move into the reporting stage, with a report being prepared for the Attorney General as required under section 54 of the LEIC Act. Given the public interest in this matter, the Integrity Commissioner will consider the release of a public report under section 209 of the LEIC Act once the investigation report has been provided to the Attorney General.

Background

Operation Angove is an investigation into possible corruption issues arising from the 60 Minutes program on 28 July 2019 and subsequent reporting in the Sydney Morning Herald regarding the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) and its interactions with Crown Casino.

This matter was referred to ACLEI by the Attorney General on 30 July 2019.

ACLEI's jurisdiction relates to the investigation of corruption in Commonwealth law enforcement agencies, Operation Angove is therefore limited to investigating whether there was corruption by Home Affairs staff in relation to the provision of visas for Crown Casino VIPs, the clearing of those VIPs at the border and whether a former Home Affairs staff member had undeclared conflicts of interest with the VIPs.

In October 2019, ACLEI announced that public hearings would be held in relation to this matter. Those hearings were postponed in October 2019 due to the unavailability of one of the witnesses.

All enquiries regarding this media release should be sent to strategy@aclei.gov.au.