



Australian Government

**Australian Commission for
Law Enforcement Integrity**

Opening of ACLEI Operations Facility

**Address by the Integrity Commissioner,
Mr Philip Moss**

Wednesday, 2 December 2009
5.15 pm - 6.00 pm

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

[Introduction]

Minister, ladies and gentlemen, may I welcome you this afternoon to ACLEI. It is indeed a pleasure to have you here to help us to celebrate the formal opening of our secure Operations Facility.

Any building project involves a great deal of effort, and I acknowledge now the hard work and dedication of ACLEI's staff members in bringing this project to completion.

[Developing our capabilities]

Our planning for the Operations Facility began two years ago, just before ACLEI's first anniversary.

Based on our experience in that first year, it was clear to us that ACLEI would need special facilities for it to carry out its work satisfactorily.

Accordingly, we made plans for a facility that would give us a physical environment in which we could deal securely with sensitive issues, and accommodate the necessary IT and other equipment. In other words, we sought to establish a dedicated centre for integrity-related investigations focusing on serious and systemic corruption.

[Integrity partnership]

We also needed a facility that reflected the way we should be working. Central to the approach we take at ACLEI is to emphasise the 'integrity partnership' between ACLEI and the Australian Crime Commission and the Australian Federal Police. Accordingly we cooperate in investigations to the extent appropriate.

This approach is reflected in the design of the Operations Facility, which includes a sizeable task force room to support joint investigations.

[Corruption handshake]

In my recent annual report, I used the metaphor ‘corruption handshake’ to describe the facilitative relationship between corrupt officials on the one hand, and crime gangs on the other. About 10% of the information and allegations that come to ACLEI have a connection with organised crime, and we are presently investigating some corruption issues of this type. To either substantiate or disprove such allegations is part of the important work that ACLEI does.

While there are other forms of corruption that would be troubling, and which ACLEI may also investigate – for example major fraud, serious conflicts of interest, or attempts to cover-up misuse of power – I believe that the ‘corruption handshake’ has the hardest edge, and is the key reason why ACLEI has available to it a range of intrusive and coercive law enforcement powers.

The Government has recognised the need and the advantage in ACLEI's having an Operations Facility like the one the Minister will open shortly.

It was seen, not only as a pre-requisite for the type of high-end work that ACLEI must focus on, but also as the basis for ACLEI to exchange with other agencies the intelligence gained through investigations of corruption issues.

[Milestones]

So, the opening of this new Facility has two milestones to mark it.

The first milestone represents the further development of ACLEI – and recognises the level of assurance that ACLEI provides about the integrity of our premier law enforcement agencies.

The second milestone marks a notable advance in our understanding of integrity systems. Significantly, this Operations Facility is an expression of the Government's determination to ensure that, together with the State anti-corruption agencies, ACLEI can contribute to wider law enforcement efforts to fight serious and organised crime.

[Introducing the Minister]

Ladies and gentlemen, at the end of these brief proceedings, there will be an opportunity for you to see the Operations Facility, which is located on level one of this building.

Minister, I extend to you a warm welcome and also to your Chief of Staff, Julie Ligeti, and Adviser, Brian Humphreys.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to speak now and to open ACLEI's operations facility.

ENDS (591 words)

Note: After Minister's speech,

- **present him with a gift to honour the occasion**
- **invite people to tour the facility.**