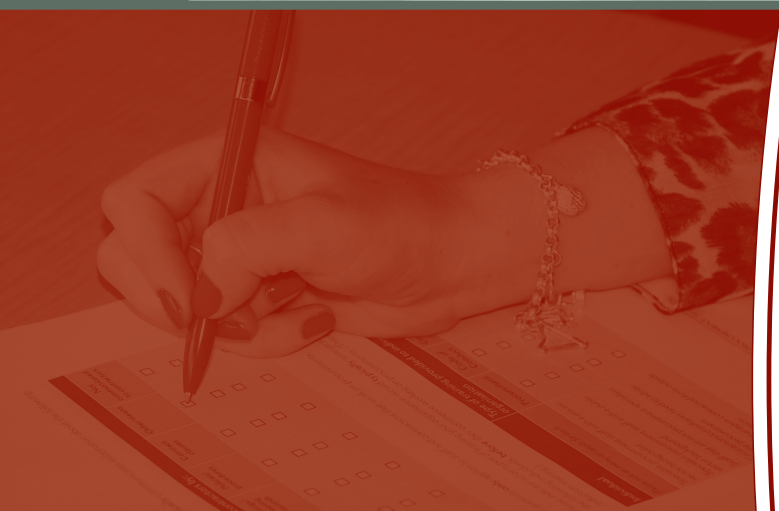


The logo for the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) New South Wales. It features the letters 'I·C·A·C' in a large, bold, serif font, with dots separating the letters. Below the letters is a thin horizontal line.

I·C·A·C

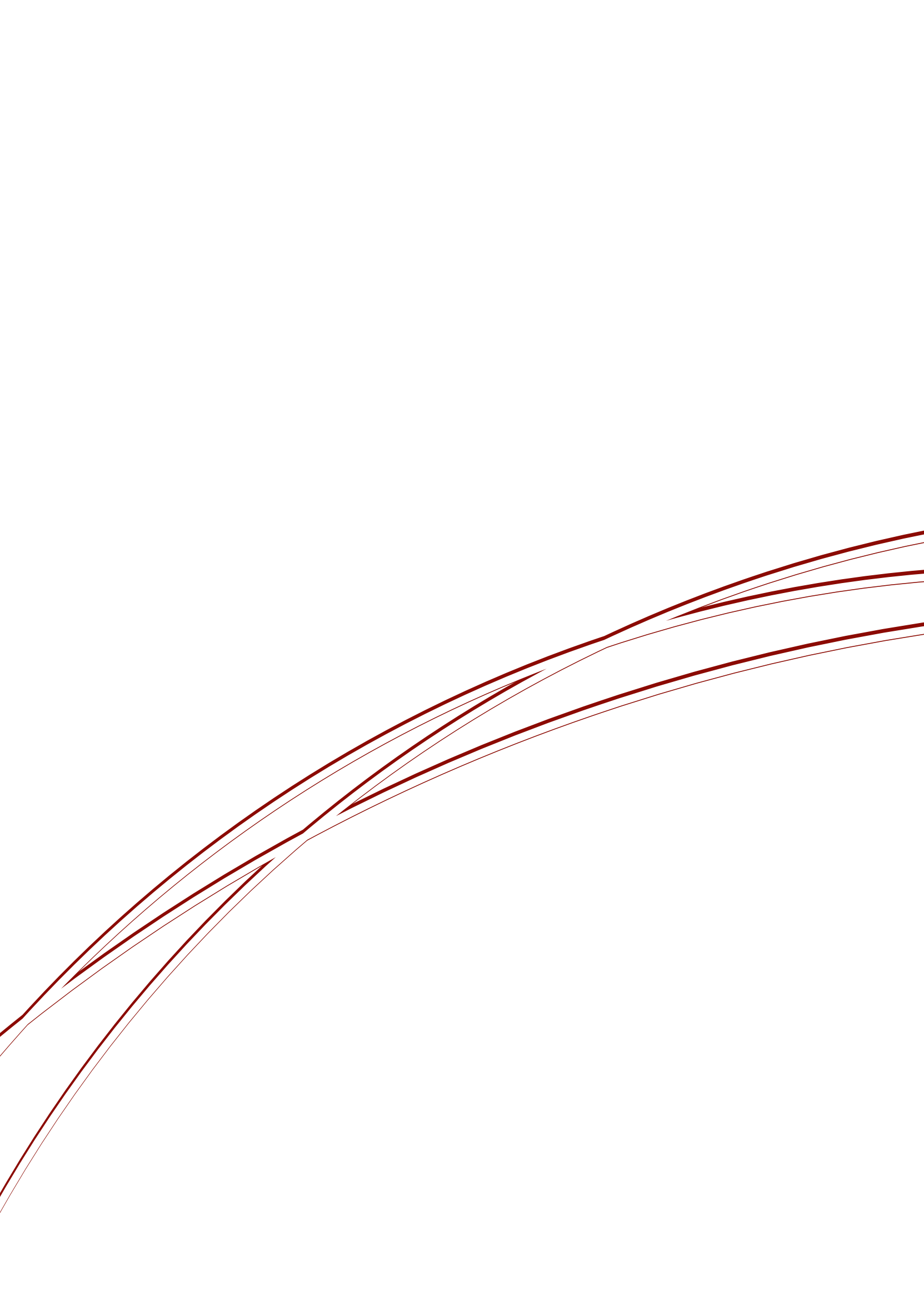
INDEPENDENT COMMISSION
AGAINST CORRUPTION
NEW SOUTH WALES



**COMMUNITY ATTITUDES
TO CORRUPTION AND
TO THE ICAC**

**REPORT ON THE
2015 SURVEY**

JUNE 2016



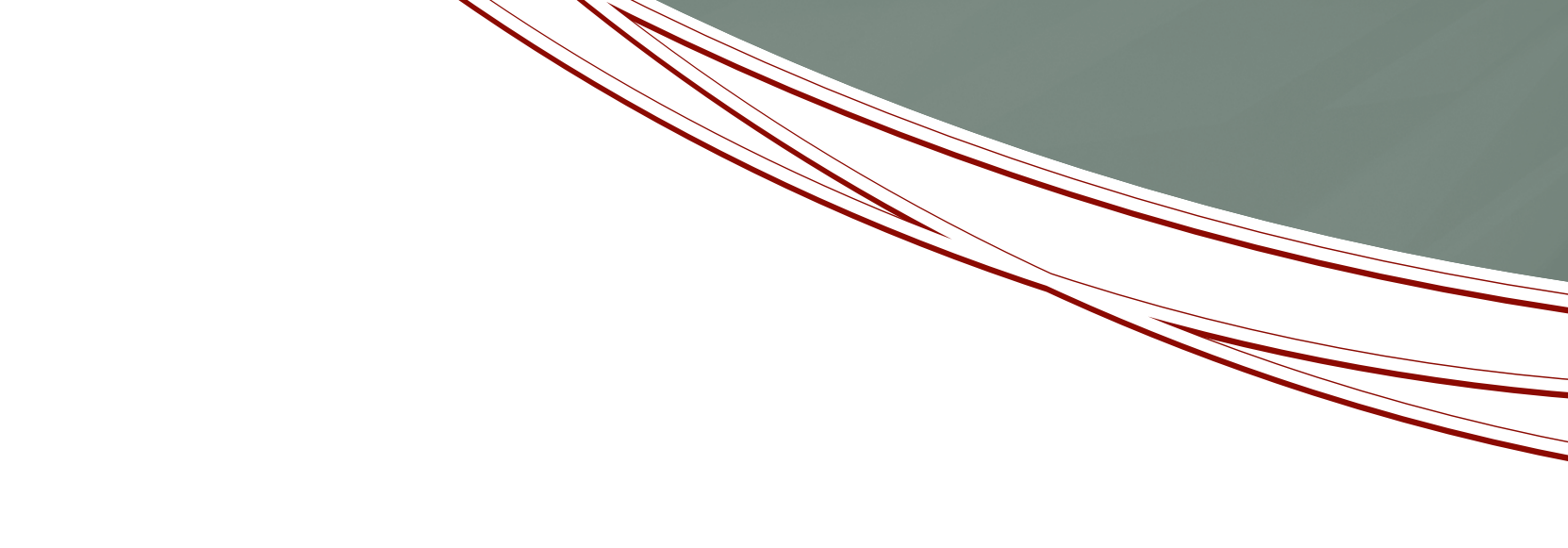


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AGAINST CORRUPTION
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COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TO CORRUPTION AND TO THE ICAC

REPORT ON THE 2015 SURVEY

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ISBN: 978 1 921688 68 3

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Public sector organisations are welcome to refer to this publication in their own publications. References to and all quotations from this publication must be fully referenced.



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Introduction

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) was established to promote the integrity and accountability of public administration in NSW. The ICAC has a range of principal functions specified by s 13 of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*, including investigating allegations and complaints about corrupt conduct and providing advice and training to the public sector on how corruption can be controlled.

In support of its functions, the ICAC aims to foster public support to combat corruption. It works with the community to highlight the detrimental effects of corruption and with public officials and private citizens to report instances of possible corrupt conduct.

The ICAC regularly conducts the community attitudes survey (CAS) to assess the engagement of the public in supporting the state's resistance to corruption and the public's desire for promoting integrity in the public sector. The CAS is used to gauge the public's perception of corruption and of the ICAC and has been conducted by the ICAC every three years (approximately) for over 20 years. Information from the CAS may be used to identify the extent to which corruption is considered a problem in NSW and to evaluate whether the ICAC has been effective in developing public awareness of the ICAC and its work.

In the ICAC's experience, three elements are necessary to support a society that is resistant to corruption. First, the public needs to be aware of corruption, recognise that corruption has detrimental effects on society and be motivated to act. Secondly, the public needs to be aware that an anti-corruption body exists and has confidence in that body. Thirdly, the public must be willing to report corruption to this body. How successfully the ICAC contributes to each of these core elements is assessed in the CAS.

The first part of the CAS assessed whether respondents were aware of the detrimental effects of corruption. They were asked to report their perceptions of corruption in the NSW public sector and to describe how corruption affects them. The second part of the survey assessed whether respondents were aware of the ICAC; if they were, they were then asked their perceptions of the ICAC's effectiveness. The final part of the survey assessed whether respondents were willing to report corruption to the ICAC.

Many factors impact on whether people are willing to report corruption. Group norms, incentives and organisational culture all play a part in whether people report corruption. Understanding which types of respondents are less willing to report corruption helps the ICAC to focus its corruption prevention and education activities.

The previous CAS was conducted in 2012. The ensuing 2013 report reviewed trends in community attitudes over the past 20 years. Given that this could be viewed as concluding a set of data, the opportunity was taken in the present survey to improve some of the questions even though this would create some breaks in the data. Minor revisions were made to the wording of some questions to improve clarity. For example, the number of response categories provided was increased to allow respondents to select or give more precise responses. In this report, changes made to the questions or response categories have been footnoted and a break has been inserted in the figures.

The ICAC is grateful to the respondents who participated in the CAS for generously donating their time and sharing their insights.

Methodology

The 2015 CAS was undertaken together with another survey that was conducted for internal purposes and did not examine community attitudes towards corruption. This report presents findings regarding the nine survey items that were relevant to community attitudes.

Given the 2013 report examined trends spanning 20 years, the present CAS was designed to be shorter and more focused than previous years. The survey items were designed to assess perceptions of corruption and how it affects respondents, awareness of the ICAC and perceptions of the ICAC’s effectiveness in exposing and reducing corruption, and willingness to report corruption to the ICAC.

Taverner Research was contracted to pilot and conduct the survey and to perform the initial coding of a free response item, as the ICAC distributing a survey about itself would represent a conflict of interest. In line with previous surveys, this CAS was distributed by using a computer-assisted telephone interview.

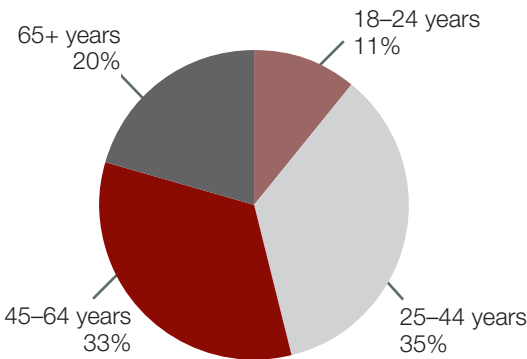
As in the past, this CAS sample was obtained by randomly selecting NSW adults. Quotas were applied in terms of age, gender and place of residence to ensure that the sample was representative of the general NSW adult population. These quotas were selected by using demographic data obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The survey was administered between 18 November and 9 December 2015. Participants were approached using both landline telephone numbers and mobile telephone numbers. Of the 1,542 eligible people with landline telephones that were approached to do the survey, 251 respondents agreed to be interviewed, which

represents a 16% response rate. A total of 250 respondents approached on their mobile telephones agreed to complete the survey but it was not possible to calculate the response rate for these respondents.¹

A total of 501 eligible people agreed to participate. Their age profile is depicted in figure 1.

Figure 1: Age profile of CAS respondents



Additional demographic characteristics of the sample included that:

- 63% were located in Sydney²
- 51% were males
- 41% had completed one or more university degrees
- 33% had been employed in the public sector at some point in their career
- 11% had been a supplier to the public sector at some point in their career.

¹ Unlike landlines, mobile telephone numbers do not provide an indication of whether the respondent resides in NSW. Given that some respondents who declined to participate also declined to indicate whether they resided in NSW, it is not possible to determine the proportion of eligible participants that were approached via mobile telephone.

² Note that for one participant, the research company did not record their location due to an administrative error. This participant was excluded from the logistic regression models, which included location as a variable.



Data analyses

Three sets of analyses were used in this report.

First, frequencies were calculated for the whole sample.

Secondly, logistic regressions were used to compare responses among different subgroups within the sample. The ICAC defined these subgroups *a priori* according to variables that might lead some respondents to answer differently to the rest of the sample. The variables entered into the logistic regression were:

- respondent's age³
- whether or not the respondent had been employed in the public sector
- whether or not the respondent had been a supplier to the public sector
- level of education attained
- whether or not the respondent resided in Sydney.

Thirdly, Chi-Square Tests of Independence were used to compare the present CAS results to the 2012 CAS findings.

The standard criterion value of $\alpha=.05$ was used for all statistical tests.

There may be instances in this report where percentages do not sum up to 100% due to rounding percentages to the nearest whole number.

³ Gender was not entered into the regression model as there were no specific hypotheses about gender differences.



Perceptions of the extent of corruption in the NSW public sector

One set of survey questions asked respondents about their perceptions of the extent of corruption in the NSW public sector⁴. If corruption is perceived to be a problem, respondents may be more motivated to report corruption to the ICAC to address the problem. However, if too many people perceive that corruption is a major problem, people may have less faith in the integrity of the public sector and perceive that bribery and other forms of corruption are necessary when interacting with government. For example, a business that perceives that bribery is widespread within government may believe that it has to pay bribes to receive government contracts.

Respondents were asked three questions to assess their perceptions of corruption. They were asked to what extent they consider corruption in the NSW public sector to be a problem for the community. Next, they were asked to indicate the extent that corruption affects them or their family. Finally, if they considered that corruption affected them or their family, they were asked how it affected them or their family.

2015 findings

The extent of corruption

Overall, 78% of respondents indicated that corruption in the NSW public sector is a problem for the community. This consists of 31% of respondents who reported that corruption is a major problem, and 47 % of respondents who indicated that while corruption is a problem, it is not a major problem.

The proportion of respondents that indicated that corruption is a major problem was compared across

the sample subgroups. The only statistically significant difference was that current and former public sector employees were significantly less likely to indicate that corruption is a major problem for the community.⁵ No significant subgroup effects emerged for the proportion of respondents who indicated that corruption is a problem.⁶

Effects of corruption

Next, respondents were asked to what extent corruption in the NSW public sector affects them or their family. Half of the survey respondents indicated that corruption affects them or their families, with 15% of respondents reporting that corruption affects them or their family in a major way and 35% reporting that it affects them or their families but not in a major way.

The next set of statistical comparisons compared the proportion of respondents who thought that corruption affects them or their families in a major way across the sample subgroups. No statistically significant subgroup differences emerged from this analysis.⁷

The proportion of respondents who thought that corruption affects them or their families in any way was compared across the sample subgroups. Respondents aged 65 years or more were significantly less likely to indicate that corruption affects them or their family than other age groups.⁸

The following list represents the top five ways in which respondents perceived that corruption affects them or their families. Multiple responses were permitted for this free response question.

⁴ In the survey, corruption was defined as “the misuse of public office for private gain, for example: theft of public resources, misuse of confidential information, favouring a particular candidate during the hiring process, bribery, et cetera”.

⁵ $B = -.72$, $Wald = 10.66$, $EXP(B) = .49$, $p = .001$.

⁶ $|B| \leq .67$, $Walds \leq 2.48$, $.89 \leq EXP(B)s \leq 1.95$, $ps > .12$, *ns*.

⁷ $B = -.55$, $Wald = 3.83$, $EXP(B) = .58$, $p = .05$, *ns*.

⁸ $B = -.50$, $Wald = 4.97$, $EXP(B) = .61$, $p = .03$.

- Corruption has a financial cost. For example, corruption wastes financial resources or may result in increased taxes (29%).
- Corruption has operational costs, which include poorer public services or a lack of trust in public services (26%).
- Corruption negatively affects decision-making. For example, unfair or wrong decisions are made, which means that money is diverted to the wrong people or people are disadvantaged (23%).
- Corruption negatively impacts on the community, as corruption means there is less funding or commitment to the community. For example, developers may be favoured without considering planning and environment regulations and the impact on the community (21%).

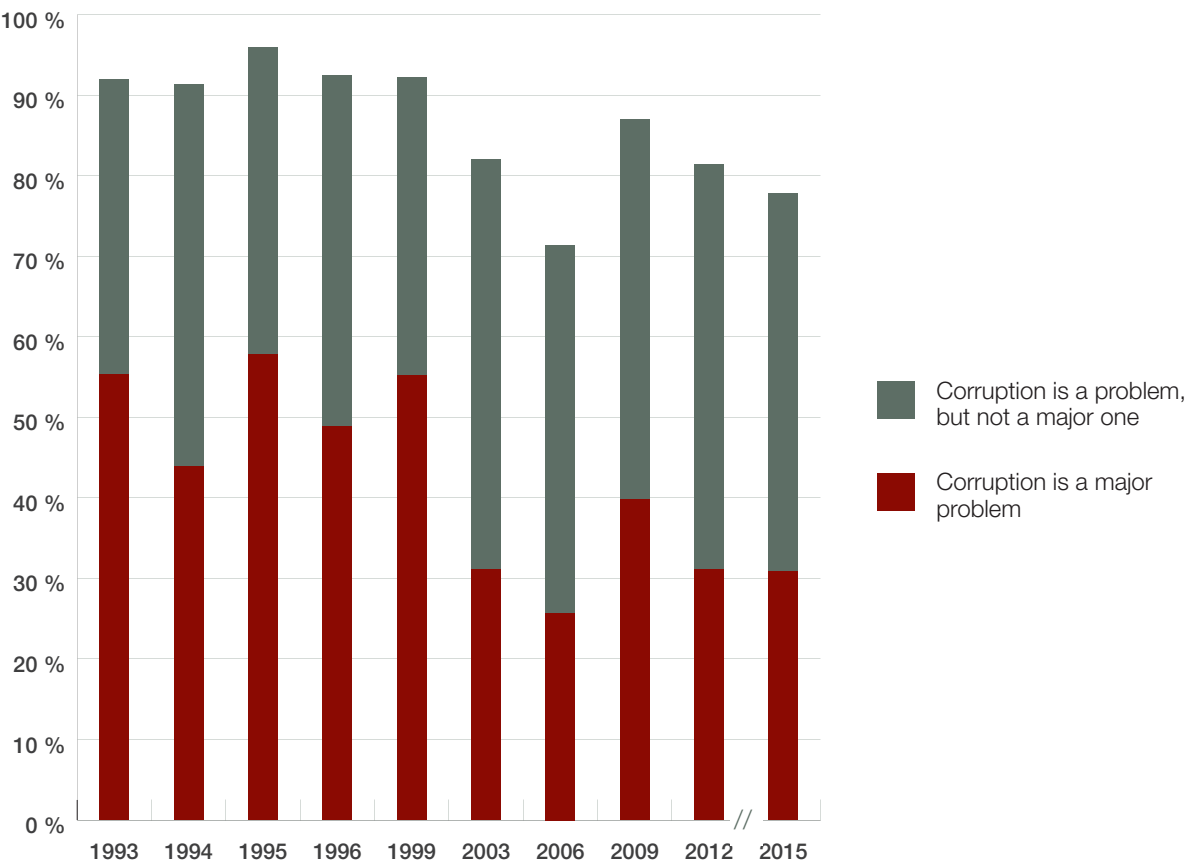
- Corruption negatively affects public sector employment. Employing friends or family in positions without merit-based selection means that the public sector does not select the best person for the job. If the recruitment process is perceived to be corrupt, people may not bother applying for particular positions or promotions, which can have financial implications and also result in decreased trust in the public sector (7%).⁹

Also noteworthy is that 8% of respondents provided stories detailing how they have been personally affected by corruption.

Comparisons with previous findings

Figure 2 presents the proportion of respondents who indicated across multiple surveys that corruption is a problem.¹⁰

Figure 2: Perceptions across surveys of corruption as a problem



⁹ Given that respondents could provide multiple responses to this question, frequencies sum to more than 100%.

¹⁰ In the present survey, very minor changes were made to improve the wording of the question. Minor changes were also made to the response categories. The 2012 and 2015 CAS both used three response categories, however, the category “a minor problem” was modified to “a problem but not a major problem.” The other two response categories remained the same.

The proportion of respondents that reported that corruption was a problem or a major problem in the 2015 CAS did not statistically differ from the 2012 CAS results.¹¹ The report on the 2012 CAS findings, which examined 20-year trends, found that participants surveyed between 2000 and 2012 were significantly less likely to perceive corruption as a major problem than those surveyed before 2000.

Figure 3 presents the proportion that indicated that corruption affects them or their family across surveys.¹²

The proportion of respondents in the 2015 survey that indicated that corruption affects them or their families was not statistically different from the 2012 CAS results.¹³

Together, comparisons with the 2012 CAS results suggest that perceptions of corruption, and the perceived extent that respondents or their families are affected by corruption, have remained relatively stable over time.

Conclusions

Most respondents reported that corruption in the NSW public sector is a problem for the community. Half of the survey respondents indicated that corruption affects

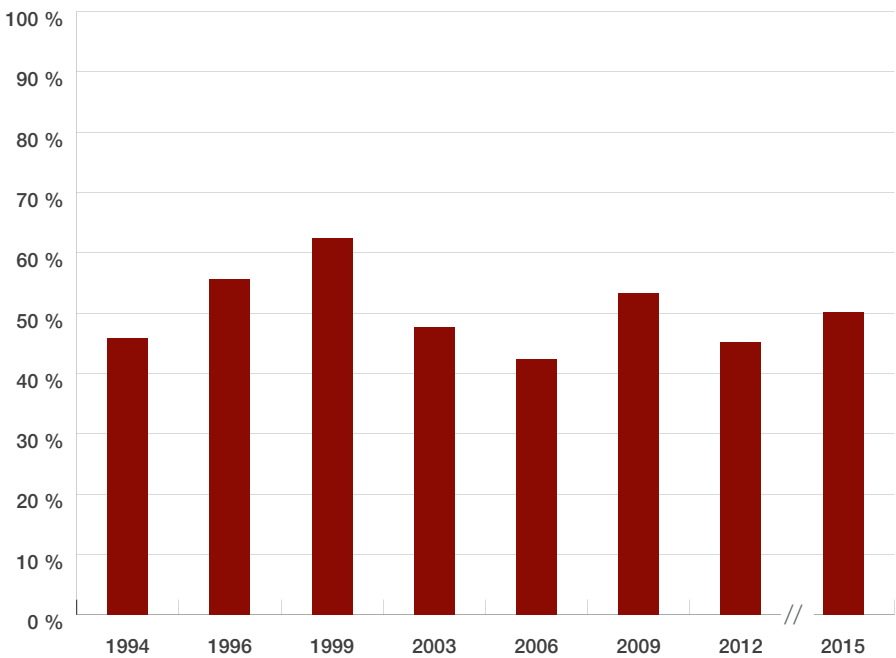
them or their families. The main reasons provided by respondents with regard to these impacts is that financial resources are wasted and that corruption results in poorer public services, leads to biased decision-making, negatively impacts the community and adversely affects opportunities for employment.

The finding that current and former public sector employees were less likely to indicate that corruption is a major problem may be explained as a result of their being exposed to the inner workings of the public sector. What may be perceived by outsiders as corruption may be attributable to complex policies or procedures that lack transparency, insufficient communication or inefficient processes, as suggested in the 2012 CAS report.

According to the 2015 results, older respondents aged 65 years or more were less likely to report that corruption affects them or their families. Possible explanations include that older respondents may perceive that they are less affected by corruption because the nature of their interaction with government is likely to have changed.

Lastly, given that there were no significant differences between the 2012 and 2015 surveys, perceptions of the personal effect of corruption have remained fairly stable over time.

Figure 3: Perceptions across surveys of whether corruption affects the respondent or their family



¹¹ $\chi^2=1.99$, $df=1$, $N=1007$, $p=.16$, ns and $\chi^2=.01$, $df=1$, $N=1007$, $p=.92$, ns respectively.

¹² In the 2015 CAS, the number of response categories was expanded from a categorical Yes/No format to a variable that allowed respondents to select whether they or their family were majorly affected, affected but not in major way or not affected by corruption. To improve the wording of the question, very minor changes were made to the last survey with regard to the first few words introducing the question.

¹³ $\chi^2=2.56$, $df=1$, $N=1007$, $p=.11$, ns . Note that because the 2012 CAS only asked whether respondents and their families were affected by corruption or not, the proportion that was "majorly affected" could not be compared.



Awareness of the ICAC

The ICAC’s main functions are to investigate and expose corruption in, and affecting, the NSW public sector and to provide assistance to the public sector to prevent corruption. As such, the ICAC depends on information from public sector agencies and public sector employees and complaints from the general public. However, in order for people to report to the ICAC, they need to be aware that the ICAC exists and understand, in general terms, that the ICAC is responsible for investigating and exposing corruption.

In the 2015 CAS, two questions were designed to assess whether respondents were aware of the ICAC. First, all survey respondents were asked whether they could name the “body set up by the NSW government to deal with corruption in the NSW public sector”. Acceptable responses included “ICAC”, “I-C-A-C” or the “Independent Commission Against Corruption”. If respondents could not name the ICAC they were asked if they recognised any of these names. Respondents had some awareness of the ICAC if they could either name the ICAC without prompting or recognise the ICAC with prompting.

2015 findings

Overall, 83% of respondents reported some awareness of the ICAC. This consisted of 36% of respondents who were able to name the ICAC without prompting and 47% of respondents who indicated that they recognised the ICAC when prompted with its name.¹⁴

Subgroups were separately compared for respondents that named the ICAC or had some awareness of the ICAC.

¹⁴ Six respondents were excluded from the overall analyses involving “awareness of the ICAC” because the research company hired to conduct the survey incorrectly classified these respondents as correctly naming the ICAC. As it is not possible to identify whether these respondents had awareness of the ICAC, they were also excluded from the subsequent analyses.

Among the respondents who could name the ICAC (that is, unprompted), the following statistically significant effects were observed:

- respondents that resided outside of Sydney were significantly less likely to name the ICAC than respondents that resided in Sydney¹⁵
- 45 to 64-year-olds and respondents aged 65 years or more were significantly more likely to name the ICAC than other age groups¹⁶
- university graduates were significantly more likely to name the ICAC than those without a university degree¹⁷
- current and former public sector suppliers were significantly more likely to name the ICAC than respondents who had not been public sector suppliers¹⁸.

Among respondents that had some awareness of the ICAC (whether prompted or unprompted), the following statistically significant effects were observed:

- 18 to 24-year-olds were significantly less likely to be aware of the ICAC than other age groups¹⁹
- 45 to 64-year-olds and respondents aged 65 years or more were significantly more likely to be aware of the ICAC than other age groups²⁰

¹⁵ $B = -.76$, $Wald = 11.70$, $EXP(B) = .47$, $p = .001$.

¹⁶ $B = 1.42$, $Wald = 35.51$, $EXP(B) = 4.12$, $p < .001$ and $B = 1.63$, $Wald = 35.37$, $EXP(B) = 5.10$, $p < .001$ respectively.

¹⁷ $B = .71$, $Wald = 11.22$, $EXP(B) = 2.03$, $p = .001$.

¹⁸ $B = .68$, $Wald = 4.65$, $EXP(B) = 1.97$, $p = .03$.

¹⁹ $B = -.76$, $Wald = 5.37$, $EXP(B) = .47$, $p = .02$.

²⁰ $B = 1.54$, $Wald = 18.18$, $EXP(B) = 4.68$, $p < .001$ and $B = 3.55$, $Wald = 12.09$, $EXP(B) = 34.86$, $p = .001$ respectively.

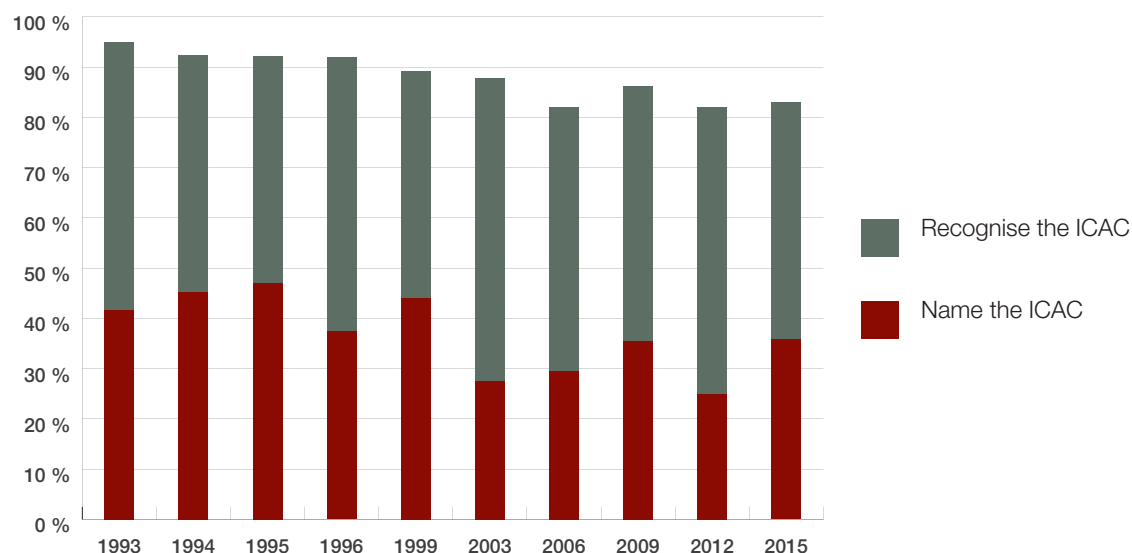
- current and former public sector employees were significantly more likely to be aware of the ICAC than non-public sector employees²¹
- current and former public sector suppliers were significantly more likely to be aware of the ICAC than non-public sector suppliers.²²

Comparisons with previous findings

Figure 4 presents both the proportion of respondents that could name the ICAC and the proportion that recognised the ICAC across surveys.²³

In 2015, a significantly higher proportion of respondents were able to name the ICAC than the 2012 sample.²⁴ In 2012, 25% of respondents could name the ICAC and this increased to 36% in 2015. However, the overall awareness of the ICAC did not significantly differ between the 2012 and 2015 samples.²⁵

Figure 4: Are respondents aware of the ICAC?



²¹ $B=-.71$, $Wald=4.51$, $EXP(B)=2.03$, $p=.03$.

²² $B=1.76$, $Wald=5.53$, $EXP(B)=5.84$, $p=.02$.

²³ In 2015, the question whether respondents could name the ICAC was modified to a simpler format. Very minor changes were made such as deleting the words “in the late 1980s” from the question. No changes were made to the question whether respondents could recognise ICAC.

²⁴ $\chi^2=13.89$, $df=1$, $N=1007$, $p<.001$.

²⁵ $\chi^2=.26$, $df=1$, $N=1001$, $p=.61$, ns .



Conclusions

Overall, a high proportion of respondents indicated some awareness of the ICAC. While more respondents were able to name the ICAC in the present survey relative to the 2012 CAS, overall awareness of the ICAC has remained unchanged.

Several demographic factors influenced whether respondents were able to name the ICAC or were aware of it. While respondents who resided outside of Sydney were less likely to name the ICAC, there was no difference in overall ICAC awareness between these groups. While the ICAC regularly performs outreach programs, it may be less likely to be on the tip of the tongue of residents outside of Sydney because they are further from the ICAC and central business districts where NSW public authority offices are concentrated.

Awareness of the ICAC was lower among younger survey respondents. One explanation is that younger respondents have had less time to be exposed to the ICAC than older respondents. In addition, given that the median age of public sector employees is 45 years old,²⁶ younger respondents have had fewer opportunities to be exposed to the work of the ICAC as they are less likely to have entered the public sector workforce.

Current and former public sector employees and suppliers were more likely to be aware of the ICAC, possibly because these respondents work in, or supply to, the NSW public sector, which is within the ICAC's jurisdiction. These respondents are likely to have been exposed to the ICAC through corruption prevention mechanisms such as codes of conduct or statements of business ethics. In addition, these respondents may have, or may have had, reporting obligations to the ICAC.

²⁶ Public Service Commission, *State of the NSW Public Sector Report 2015*, 2015, p. 11.

Perceptions of the ICAC’s effectiveness

The next set of questions measured perceptions of the ICAC’s performance. Whether the public perceives that the ICAC is effective is important. If people do not perceive that it is effective, they may have less trust in the ICAC to perform its functions, be less likely to report corruption and be less likely to consider advice and recommendations provided by the ICAC.

Survey respondents were asked three questions to assess perceptions of the ICAC’s effectiveness. Respondents were asked whether the ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW, the extent that it has been successful in exposing some of the corruption in NSW and the extent that it has been successful in reducing the level of corruption in NSW.

In line with previous surveys, only respondents that were aware of the ICAC were asked to evaluate the ICAC. Participants that were unaware of it were not asked to evaluate the ICAC because they would most likely be using guesswork to supply an answer.

2015 findings

In total, 93% of respondents indicated that the ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW. Subgroup analyses were not performed for the question assessing whether the ICAC is a good thing because a logistic regression would be statistically inappropriate; given that almost all respondents thought that the ICAC is a good thing, the lack of variability in the data means that there were not enough degrees of freedom for a logistic regression to be performed.

Table 1 presents the proportion of respondents who indicated that the ICAC has been successful at exposing and reducing corruption.

Table 1: Percentage of respondents that indicated that the ICAC has been successful

ICAC has been successful in...	Very successful	Somewhat successful	Total
Exposing corruption in NSW	17%	58%	75%
Reducing corruption in NSW	11%	50%	60%

Whether respondents indicated that the ICAC was successful in exposing corruption was dependent on both age and education. Respondents aged 45 to 64 were significantly more likely to indicate that the ICAC has been successful in exposing corruption and very successful in exposing corruption in comparison with other age groups.²⁷ Similarly, respondents aged 65 years or more were significantly more likely to indicate that the ICAC has been successful in exposing corruption relative to other age groups.²⁸ Lastly, university-educated respondents were significantly more likely to indicate that the ICAC has been successful in exposing corruption than respondents without a degree.²⁹

No significant subgroup differences emerged for whether the ICAC was successful in reducing corruption.³⁰

²⁷ $B = .85$, $Wald = 10.07$, $EXP(B) = 2.33$, $p = .002$ and $B = .70$, $Wald = 6.95$, $EXP(B) = 2.01$, $p = .008$ respectively.
²⁸ $B = .95$, $Wald = 9.21$, $EXP(B) = 2.57$, $p = .002$.
²⁹ $B = .62$, $Wald = 6.40$, $EXP(B) = 1.86$, $p = .01$.
³⁰ $|B| \leq .60$, $Walds \leq 2.04$, $.55 \leq EXP(B)s \leq 1.35$, $ps > .15$, ns .

Comparisons with previous findings

Figure 5 presents the proportion of respondents across surveys that reported that the ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW.

For the item whether “the ICAC is a good thing for NSW”, the 2012 and 2015 samples did not differ significantly.³¹

Figures 6 and 7 show the proportion of respondents that indicated that the ICAC has been perceived to be successful in exposing and reducing corruption.³²

Figure 5: Perceptions across surveys of whether the ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW

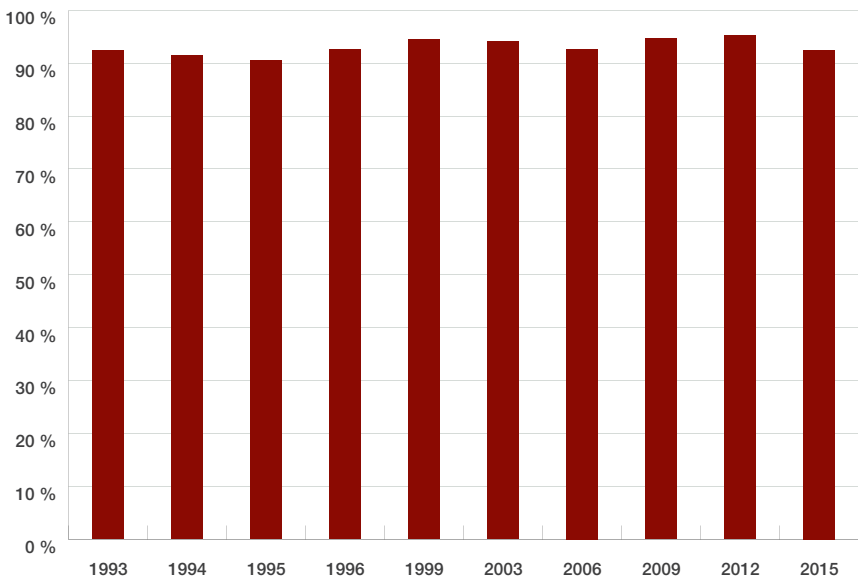
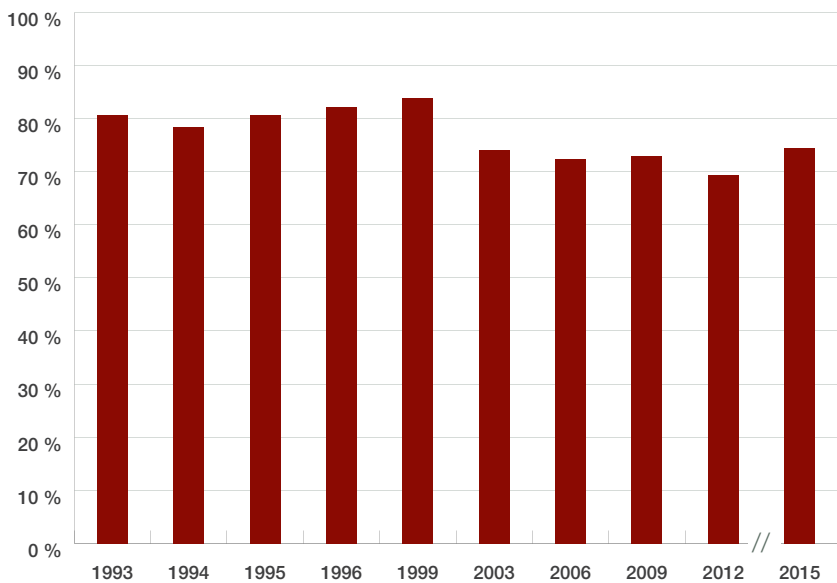


Figure 6: Perceptions across surveys of whether the ICAC has been successful in exposing corruption



³¹ $\chi^2=2.61$, $df=1$, $N=827$, $p=.11$, ns .

³² For the expose and reduce questions, minor changes were made to the wording and response scales. The question wording “Do you think the ICAC has been unsuccessful or successful?” was replaced with “To what extent has the ICAC been successful?” in the present survey. More fine-grained response scales were introduced. The categories were expanded from “successful” and “unsuccessful” in the 2012 CAS to “very successful”, “somewhat successful”, “neither successful nor unsuccessful”, “somewhat unsuccessful” and “very unsuccessful” in the 2015 CAS.

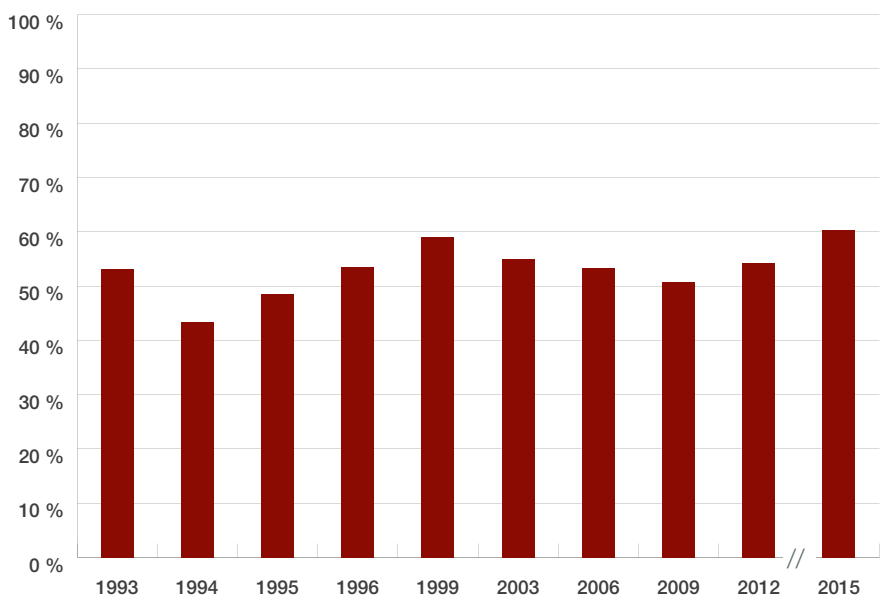
No statistically significant effects were observed for the exposing and reducing corruption comparisons.³³ As a result, the perceived success of the ICAC in exposing and reducing corruption has remained fairly stable over time since the 2012 CAS. The present perceptions of whether the ICAC has been successful in reducing corruption are the highest that they have ever been since the survey was first conducted in 1993.

Conclusions

Almost all respondents reported that the ICAC is a good thing for NSW. Three quarters of the sample reported that the ICAC has been successful in exposing corruption and 60% reported that the ICAC has been successful in reducing corruption. Overall, comparisons with the 2012 survey sample reveal that general perceptions of the ICAC's effectiveness do not appear to have changed.

Survey respondents that were older and university-educated were more likely to report that the ICAC has been successful in exposing corruption. One potential explanation is that older respondents and university-educated respondents may each have experienced a different pattern of exposure to the ICAC than the rest of the sample. Since the ICAC was founded in 1988, older respondents may have had more exposure to the ICAC because they have been in the workforce for longer than younger respondents where some may have had greater opportunity to be exposed to the ICAC. University students may have greater opportunity to be exposed to the ICAC through their university studies in comparison with respondents without a university degree. Another possible explanation is that each of these groups may differ from the rest of the sample in terms of media consumption. The ICAC's public inquiries are often reported in traditional media sources, such as newspapers, which may reach some audiences more than others.

Figure 7: Perceptions across surveys of whether the ICAC has been successful in reducing corruption



³³ $\chi^2=2.68$, $df=1$, $N=827$, $p=.10$, ns and $\chi^2=3.27$, $df=1$, $N=827$, $p=.07$, ns respectively.

Willingness to report corruption to the ICAC

As described in previous sections, of the respondents that were aware of the ICAC, the majority reported that the ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW and indicated that it has been successful. However, this does not necessarily mean that these respondents would report public sector corruption to the ICAC. A multitude of factors, such as peer pressure, fear of retribution and whether the complainant believes that their information will be acted on, can influence whether people report corruption to the ICAC.

The final part of the survey explored how willing respondents were to report serious corruption in the NSW public sector to the ICAC. In line with previous surveys, only participants who were aware of the ICAC were asked this question.

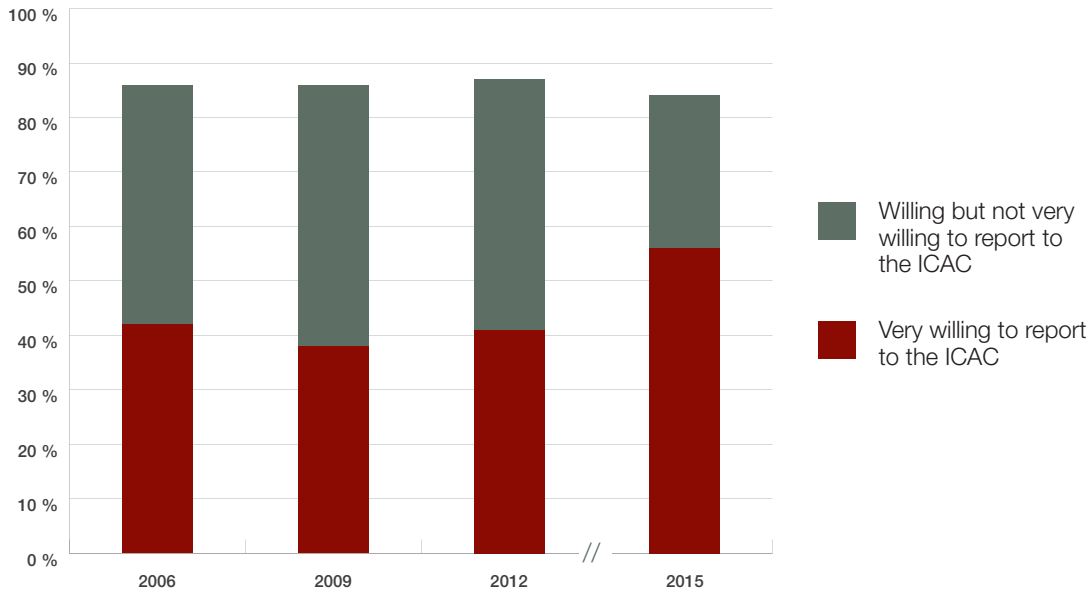
2015 findings

In total, 84% of respondents indicated they were willing to report serious corruption in the public sector to the ICAC. Of these, 56% said that they were very willing and 28% said that they were somewhat willing to report such corruption to the ICAC.

Two statistically significant subgroup differences emerged:

- current and former public sector suppliers were significantly less likely to indicate that they were willing to report serious corruption in the public sector to the ICAC than non-public sector suppliers³⁴

Figure 8: Willingness across surveys to report serious corruption to the ICAC



³⁴ B= -.82, Wald=5.52, EXP(B)=.44, p=.02.

- current and former public sector employees were significantly less likely to indicate that they were very willing to report serious corruption in the public sector to the ICAC than non-public sector employees.³⁵

Comparisons with previous findings

Figure 8 presents the proportion of respondents across surveys that were willing to report serious public sector corruption to the ICAC.³⁶ This question was first introduced in the 2006 CAS.

In 2015, a significantly higher proportion of respondents indicated that they were very willing to report serious public sector corruption to the ICAC when compared with the 2012 survey findings.³⁷ However, the overall willingness to report corruption did not significantly differ between the 2012 and 2015 samples.³⁸

Conclusions

Most respondents indicated that they were willing to report serious public sector corruption to the ICAC and this proportion has remained fairly stable across the 2012 and 2015 surveys. One finding of note is that the proportion of respondents that indicated that they were very willing to report corruption to the ICAC increased when compared with the 2012 data.

Current and former public sector suppliers indicated that they were less likely to report corruption, and current and former public sector employees were less likely to indicate that they were very willing to report corruption. While these findings may at first glance appear somewhat concerning, there are a number of potential explanations for these effects. As public sector suppliers and public sector employees work within the public sector, they may be less willing to report corruption because it may directly impact their workplace or they may be fearful of retribution from their colleagues for reporting corruption. Furthermore, suppliers may be worried about their potential work prospects if they report an agency to the ICAC. These findings suggest that public sector employees may benefit from further training and education to highlight the effects of corruption and the importance of reporting corruption. Public sector suppliers may benefit from forums to highlight the importance of preventing corruption.

³⁵ $B = -.52$, $Wald = 6.20$, $EXP(B) = .60$, $p = .01$.

³⁶ No changes were made to the wording of this question. However, minor changes were made to the response categories used in the 2012 and 2015 surveys. While both versions contained the "very willing" and "very unwilling" categories, finer-grained categories were introduced in the 2015 survey. The 2012 CAS categories "fairly willing" and "fairly unwilling" were modified to "somewhat willing", "neither willing nor unwilling" and "somewhat unwilling" in the present survey.

³⁷ $\chi^2 = 17.11$, $df = 1$, $N = 827$, $p < .001$.

³⁸ $\chi^2 = 1.75$, $df = 1$, $N = 827$, $p = .19$, *ns*.



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