



# COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TO CORRUPTION AND THE ICAC

1994

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION  
COMMUNITY ATTITUDE SURVEY

ICAC Research Unit  
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## SUMMARY

In order to facilitate its education and corruption prevention work, the ICAC has conducted a survey to measure public perceptions of corruption and the work of the ICAC. Public support for the work of the Commission was also examined. A random sample of 402 NSW adults participated in the telephone survey, which was conducted in November 1994. This report documents their responses. Selected findings are presented below.

### COMMUNITY BELIEFS ABOUT CORRUPTION

- ☐ Community images of "corruption in the NSW public sector" included a diverse range of behaviours, e.g., bribery, misappropriation of funds, favouritism, cover ups, misuse of position or power and the feathering of nests.

Perceived perpetrators of corruption included police, politicians, public servants, councillors and local council employees.

Common examples given by respondents included police being involved in drugs, police and politicians taking bribes, politicians feathering their own nests and police suppressing information or covering up crimes. It is important to note the survey explored the images people associate with corruption. These images are *not* a reflection of the *existence* of corruption (see Section 2, pp. 2-8).

Images of corruption in the NSW public sector can be compared with the type of corrupt activities that people believe the ICAC deals with (Section 6, pp. 15-22).

- ☐ Forty-four per cent of respondents considered that corruption in the NSW public sector is a major problem, 47% considered it a minor problem. Very few considered corruption not to be a problem (4%). A further 5% had no opinion (Section 2.5, p. 8).
- ☐ Approximately half of the respondents (51%) *disagreed* with the statement "You can only call something corrupt if those involved personally benefit from it" (Section 2.4, p. 8).
- ☐ Sixty-five per cent *disagreed* that "there is no point in reporting corruption in the NSW public sector because nothing useful will be done about it" (Section 4, p. 13).
- ☐ Only 16% *disagreed* with the statement "People who report corruption are likely to suffer for it" (Section 4, p. 13).

### COMMUNITY BELIEFS ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION

- ☐ Forty-six per cent of respondents considered that corruption in the NSW public sector affects *them or their families* in some way. Six per cent were unsure whether or not it had an effect.

These figures may be compared to the results of the 1993 ICAC community attitude survey. In the 1993 survey, 89% of respondents considered that corruption had effects on the *community*. It appears that people have more difficulty identifying how corruption actually impacts upon their own lives than in thinking about the effects of corruption in more global terms (Section 3, p. 9).

- ☐ The types of effects perceived also differed between the two survey questions. While effects on the community tended to be more intangible (e.g., disillusionment, loss of trust and respect), the effects people perceived corruption had on them personally tended to be more concrete. Examples included financial effects, impact on quality of service provided, wrong decisions being made, disillusionment and feeling unsafe because of police involvement in corruption (Section 3.2, pp. 10-12).
- ☐ Significantly more of those who considered corruption affected them or their families thought that corruption in NSW was a major problem (58%), than those who did *not* think that corruption affected them and their families (43%) (Section 3.1, p. 10).

#### **AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE ICAC**

- ☐ Without any prompting, 45% were able to name the Commission (using its full name or one of its abbreviated names). Following prompting, only 8% said they had *not* heard of the ICAC (Section 5, p. 14).

#### **TYPES OF CORRUPTION ASSOCIATED WITH THE ICAC**

- ☐ More than three-quarters (77%) of the respondents aware of the ICAC were able to provide an example of the type of corruption they perceived the Commission deals with (Section 6, pp. 15-22).
- ☐ The ICAC is still strongly identified as a body which deals with police and politicians. It is also still associated with the 'Greiner/Metherell matter'.

Common examples of the types of activities the ICAC deals with included, police corruption (especially police taking bribes and being involved with drugs), the Greiner/Metherell matter, and political corruption (e.g., politicians misappropriating funds and taking bribes) (Section 6, pp. 15-22).

- ☐ These responses can be compared to the examples quoted under the heading "Community beliefs about corruption" above. It is evident that there is some alignment between the activities people think are corrupt and the type of work they perceive the ICAC to be doing.
- ☐ It is also interesting to note that when people were asked about the words 'corruption in the NSW public sector', they tended to focus on types of conduct (e.g., feathering their own nests, bribery, drug dealing) while when asked what corrupt activities the ICAC deals with, they tended to focus on the perceived perpetrators (e.g., police, politicians).

## UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THE ICAC

- ☐ Respondents were more likely to be aware of the Commission's investigative role (47%) than its preventative (6%) or educative (0%) functions. However, in response to a more direct question, 40% of the respondents indicated that the ICAC was more interested in reducing the opportunities for corruption than in investigating individuals. A further 7% thought that the ICAC was equally interested in reducing opportunities and investigating individuals while 19% were unsure (Section 7, pp. 23-25).
- ☐ While most people appear to get their information about the ICAC from the media<sup>1</sup>, 47% of those surveyed who knew about the ICAC could not remember what they had read, heard or seen. Of the stories remembered, the Metherell/Greiner matter was still the most prominent (mentioned by 28% of respondents). In comparison, less than 1% of respondents mentioned the recent investigation into police protecting paedophiles (Section 10, pp. 34-35).

## OPINIONS ABOUT THE ICAC

- ☐ Ninety-one per cent considered the ICAC a good thing for NSW. Reasons given for this included the ICAC acts as a necessary watchdog, it exposes corruption, it acts as a deterrent, it stops some of the corruption and because it is independent (Section 8, pp. 26-29).
- ☐ Seventy-eight per cent of respondents (about the same as in the 1993 survey) expressed the view that the ICAC has been successful in *exposing* some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW. However, only 43% considered the ICAC to have been successful in *reducing* some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW (53% in the 1993 survey). One explanation for this drop may be that much of the media focus on the ICAC at the time of the survey had been on organisational issues (e.g., the appointment of a new Commissioner) rather than on the results of its work (Section 8.1, p. 30).
- ☐ It is interesting to note how few respondents thought ICAC hearings should always be in private (4%). The findings and the comments made in this survey appear to reflect the view that the ICAC, and hearings in particular, are important accountability mechanisms. Hearings provide an opportunity for the community to witness those in positions of public trust being held accountable both for their activities and the public monies they manage (Section 9, pp. 31-33).

## SOME OBSERVATIONS

- ☐ The results leave the impression that there is a fair degree of suspicion of politicians and police. The desire to "keep the bastards honest" seems a significant motivation for supporting the ICAC. It is also a factor which appears to influence respondents' support

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<sup>1</sup> In the 1993 survey respondents said they had read, heard or seen information about the ICAC in newspapers (79%), on television (78%) and on the radio (40%).

for public hearings. In short, if people have concerns about the ICAC and public hearings these are secondary to their reservations about the conduct of politicians and police and to a lesser extent, other public sector employees.

- ☐ It may be valuable to further explore community concern about the use and misuse of public funds and public trust. Work could focus on the level of 'ownership' people feel they have of public money and services. The level of accountability they expect from people responsible for these issues could also be examined.
- ☐ Another impression gleaned from these data is that, in the public eye, the boundaries between the activities of the various government and regulatory authorities (state and federal) are not clear.

To some extent these agencies seem to share each other's publicity. As a result, the ICAC has been 'credited' with a number of the activities of the Australian Securities Commission, the Casino Control Authority, the Building Industry Royal Commission and the NSW Police Service. This is particularly evident in the area of police corruption, which is still considered to be a large component of the ICAC's work.

- ☐ The ICAC maintains a prominent profile in the media. It is likely that public opinion of the ICAC varies, influenced by the media coverage at the time. In this survey, respondents expressed a reasonably positive opinion of the ICAC.



# 1 INTRODUCTION

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) was established in March 1989 to expose and minimise corruption in the NSW public sector.

In order to facilitate its education and corruption prevention work, the ICAC sought to obtain information on the public's beliefs about corruption, their understanding of the work of the ICAC and on their level of support for that work. To gather this information the ICAC engaged the RAMIS Corporation to conduct a survey. The interview schedule was designed by the ICAC Research Unit. (Refer to Appendix 1 for a copy of the questions asked and summary of the responses given.)

## HOW COMMUNITY ATTITUDES WERE OBTAINED

Between 18 - 29 November 1994, 402 telephone interviews were conducted with a representative sample of the NSW adult (aged 18 years and over) population. The interview length averaged 14 minutes. The survey was administered as a stand alone (rather than as part of a larger, omnibus) survey. This is the second in a new series of community attitude surveys conducted on behalf of the ICAC. The first was in November 1993. For a profile of those who responded to the survey, please refer to Appendix 2.

Respondents were asked a number of open-ended questions about what corruption is and how it affects them. Questions about the nature of the ICAC's work were also asked.

One would not necessarily expect a considered assessment of such issues from respondents in a telephone survey. 'Off the top of the head' responses are more likely. Considering this, the rich responses given to the questions provide an encouraging picture of community understanding of corruption and their views about the ICAC.

Answers to the open-ended questions were sorted into response categories. This enabled similar responses to be grouped together. Examples of responses are quoted throughout the report, in order to retain the flavour of the comments made.

### A consideration

It should be noted that this survey deals with people's *perceptions*. Accordingly this report discusses community perceptions of corruption in the NSW public sector. The results *cannot* be taken as a measure of who is actually involved in corruption or the types of corrupt activity which may in fact be occurring in the NSW public sector.

2 COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF ‘CORRUPTION IN THE NSW PUBLIC SECTOR’

In order to explore the images members of the community hold about the term ‘corruption’, all respondents were asked:

*The words ‘corruption in the NSW public sector’ may mean different things to different people. What do you first think of when you hear the words ‘corruption in the NSW public sector’?*

They were asked to give up to three examples. Overall, 666 examples of ‘corruption in the NSW public sector’ were given by 367 respondents. Only 9% of respondents were not able to provide any examples. It should also be noted that responses to this question only reveal the images that form in people’s minds when ‘corruption in the NSW public sector’ is mentioned. They are *not* an indication that those mentioned are involved in corruption.

To facilitate the analysis of such an open-ended question, we divided each response into two categories - the type of person/agency associated with ‘corruption’ (perpetrator) and the type of activity associated with ‘corruption’ (conduct). For instance, if a respondent said *Police taking bribes*, the perpetrator would be categorised as ‘Police’ and the conduct, ‘bribery’.

2.1 TYPES OF PERPETRATORS ASSOCIATED WITH IMAGES OF PUBLIC SECTOR CORRUPTION

Table 1 depicts the types of people and/or agencies identified by respondents, in their examples of “corruption in the NSW public sector”.

Table 1: Types of people/agencies respondents associate with public sector corruption

Perpetrators	No. of examples	% of examples	% of respondents
Perpetrator not stated/"people"	236	35	64
Police	192	29	52
Politicians/MPs	80	12	22
Public sector/government agencies	65	10	18
Local councils	41	6	11
Public officials	34	5	9
Legal system/judges	9	1	3
Industry/private companies	6	1	2
Other	3	1	1

Of the 367 respondents who provided examples of corruption in NSW, 52% mentioned police in at least one example. One reason for this may be the prominence given to ‘police

corruption' by ICAC inquiries and the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service.

Twenty-two per cent gave an example of corruption involving politicians and 18% gave an example involving public sector or government agencies. It is interesting to note that, in at least one of their examples, 64% of respondents provided a description of an activity but did not specify a perpetrator (e.g., *doing favours for money*).

## 2.2 TYPES OF CONDUCT ASSOCIATED WITH IMAGES OF PUBLIC SECTOR CORRUPTION

Table 2: Type of conduct respondents associate with public sector corruption

Type of conduct	No. of examples	% of examples	% of respondents
Conduct not stated/'corruption'	63	9	17
Bribery/gifts (no context)	88	13	24
Bribes - tendering/contracting	4	1	1
Bribes - land rezoning/development applications	14	2	4
Bribes - turn a blind eye/fix fines	50	8	14
Bribes - driving tests	7	1	2
Bribes - other contexts	12	2	3
Doing favours for money	19	3	5
Favouritism/partiality (no context)	22	3	6
Favouritism - tendering/contracting	5	1	1
Favouritism - land rezoning/development applications	10	2	3
Favouritism - employment	21	3	6
Favouritism - other contexts	26	4	7
Drugs - (growing/taking/dealing/stealing)	46	7	13
Feathering own nest	65	10	18
Misappropriating funds/embezzlement	30	5	8
Misuse of position/power	32	5	9
Dishonesty/suppressing info/cover ups	34	5	9
Misuse-resources/time	13	2	4
Selling/misusing info	14	2	4
Other problems - land rezoning/development applications	11	2	3
Other problems - tendering/contracting	5	1	1
Fraud/white collar crime/tax rorts	10	2	3
Organised crime/major corruption	5	1	1
Inappropriate relations	5	1	1
Bending rules	7	1	2
Other - general	36	5	10
Other - criminal	3	0	1
Other - made no sense	10	2	3

As Table 2 indicates, 'Bribery', in no particular context (e.g., *I think of bribery* (Case 395)) was mentioned in at least one example by nearly one-quarter of the respondents (24%). 'Feathering their own nest/getting a personal benefit' was mentioned by 18% of respondents and 'taking bribes to turn a blind eye or to fix fines' was mentioned by 14% of respondents. Thirteen per cent of respondents mentioned 'drugs (taking, growing, stealing or dealing)' as an activity which comes to mind when 'corruption in the NSW public sector' is mentioned.

## 2.3 LINKING PERPETRATORS WITH CONDUCT

When the perceived perpetrators were reunited with the conduct, some of the most common examples of images of corruption in the NSW public sector (out of the 666 provided) were:

Police taking money/bribes to turn a blind eye	(40 examples)
Police being involved in drug taking, growing, stealing or dealing	(39 examples)
Perpetrator not stated/people taking bribes (context not stated)	(36 examples)
Police taking bribes (context not stated)	(30 examples)
Perpetrator not stated/people feathering their own nests	(26 examples)
Politicians feathering their own nests	(19 examples)
Perpetrator not stated/people misappropriating funds	(19 examples)
Perpetrator not stated/people doing favours for money	(13 examples)
Perpetrator not stated/people suppressing information/covering up	(11 examples)
Perpetrator not stated/people misuse of position/power	(11 examples)
Politicians taking bribes (context not stated)	(10 examples)
Police suppressing information/covering up	(10 examples)

More details about community images of "corruption in the NSW public sector", are provided below. Responses are organised by perpetrator and then by the conduct attributed to the type of person or group.

### Perpetrator not stated

In quite a high proportion of the examples (35%), a perpetrator was not specified. People appeared to focus on the conduct rather than who was doing it.

E.g., *Giving someone a job because they pay money for it, not on merit* (Case 38);

*People using their office to look after their own self interest* (Case 46).

### Police

Of the examples mentioning police as perpetrators, 9% simply had 'corruption' as the conduct e.g., *Corruption in the police force* (Case 79).

In 16% of the examples about police, the conduct described was 'bribery/accepting gifts (context not specified)'. In 21% of examples, the conduct specified was 'taking bribes to turn a blind eye/fix fines/provide protection'.

E.g., *The police officers taking bribes for not giving someone a speeding fine* (Case 449);

*Police make money by taking money to turn a blind eye to crimes (Case 173).*

Activities involving drugs (growing, taking, stealing and/or dealing) was another category of conduct which people connected with police (20% of the examples about police).

E.g., *I think police used to organise the drug industry (Case 90);*

*Police selling drugs (Case 192);*

*Drug deals in the police department/confiscated drugs have gone missing in the police's hands (Case 426).*

Some of the examples given about police 'turning a blind eye' were also drug-related.

Six per cent of examples about police concerned some form of favouritism or partiality.

E.g., *A police officer keeping his mouth closed when he knows a colleague has broken the law ... such as not fining a mate for a driving offence (Case 312).*

Police suppressing information comprised 5% of the examples of images of corruption by police (e.g., *Police withholding information and evidence which police have been involved in (Case 403)*). Police officers' misusing their position or power comprised 4% of these examples (e.g., *Abuse of power in the police force (Case 361)*).

## **Politicians**

Nearly one-quarter (24%) of the images of corrupt politicians concerned their feathering their own nests or gaining personal benefit.

E.g., *Politicians - don't care about the people, just look after themselves... (Case 354);*

*A politician out for the benefit of themselves by using their position to better their own life; they are looking for rises in their own pay and they do not bother putting up pensioner pay (Case 407);*

*...they are all in it for themselves, that is the parliamentarians...(Case 425).*

Some form of bribery was mentioned in 18% of the examples relating to politicians.

E.g., *Politicians taking bribes (Case 439);*

*Politicians saying if I give you x amount of dollars or some particular thing in exchange for a vote (Case 84).*

Some form of favouritism or partiality was mentioned in 14% of examples about politicians.

E.g., *Jobs for the boys, politicians looking after someone that has been in the party for a while, if they do something wrong they are protected by their mates (Case 430).*

'Doing favours for money' was mentioned in 4% of these examples.

E.g., *Politicians can be influenced by businessmen by bribery in return for political favours* (Case 431).

Misuse of position or power was mentioned in 10% of the examples.

E.g., *Politicians ... using their positions of authority to get away with things* (Case 178);

*Politicians ... I think they tend to use their positions for personal gain* (Case 299).

Dishonesty/suppressing/covering up information was mentioned in 6% of examples.

E.g., *Politicians deceiving the public* (Case 379);

*Politicians ... not releasing a lot of information they have and ignoring a lot of information* (Case 23).

#### **Public officials/public sector agencies**

For the purposes of examining the types of conduct attributed to the public sector, the 'public official' and 'public sector/government agencies' perpetrator categories have been combined. Twelve per cent of the examples about this group did not include any specific type of conduct.

Some form of bribery was the conduct mentioned most frequently in relation to public officials or public sector agencies (21%).

E.g., *Bribery in government departments* (Case 16);

*Perks for people in the public sector ... getting paid money to turn a blind eye to something, like where certain regulations aren't being met in building codes ...* (Case 111).

Some form of favouritism was mentioned in 19% of these examples.

E.g., *It's a network of people who are favouring each other in their decisions ... involves people in high levels and government positions* (Case 54).

Feathering their own nests was mentioned in 12% of the examples.

E.g., *People [in the public sector] who are making decisions for their own gain rather than the public good* (Case 63);

*Sometimes it is more important to ... teachers ... to move up the ladder than to look after the needs of the children* (Case 56).

Dishonesty/suppressing/covering up information was a type of conduct attributed to public officials or agencies in 7% of these examples.

E.g., *People in the public sector being involved in covering things up, like drugs ... (Case 19);*

*Lies that the public sector tell, what they aren't telling us; lying about whether there is a lot of corruption or if it's just internal politics (Case 50).*

### **Local councils**

Local councils were mentioned in 6% of the 666 examples. The types of activities mentioned in relation to councils largely concerned bribery, favouritism and dishonesty in land development and rezoning.

E.g., *Councillors being paid for passing building approvals (Case 198);*

*Kickbacks for council approval for development. An under the counter payment ... will help the approval go through ... (Case 319);*

*Someone works for the council and has information about development in the area and uses it to their own advantage (Case 411);*

*Councils accepting land deals for personal gain or profit ... for a favour (Case 454);*

*The council misleads the public ... building restrictions are being broken and nothing is being done ... (Case 209).*

### **The legal system/judiciary**

The legal system, judges and/or the judiciary were mentioned in 1% of the examples given of images of public sector corruption. Bribery and favouritism were two types of activities mentioned in connection with this group.

E.g., *Judges letting criminals out of gaol early (Case 262);*

*Lawyers and magistrates don't allow an equal right for people to be able to defend themselves because they favour the bureaucracy such as solicitors and the police ... (Case 110).*

As some of the above comments indicate, individual views about what constitutes 'corruption', do not always mirror what would be described as corrupt by law.

## **2.4 PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT IS 'CORRUPT'**

To supplement the images of corruption given by respondents and to find out more about the types of behaviours described as corrupt, respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with two statements:

*You can only call something corrupt if those involved benefit personally from it*

*Conduct must be illegal for it to be called corrupt*

Responses to these items, as well as responses to similar items asked in the 1993 community attitudes survey, are provided in Table 3. It can be seen that for the one item which was asked in both surveys, opinion did not differ over the two years.

Table 3: Perceptions of what is "corrupt"

Statement	% who disagree	
	1994 (n=402)	1993 (n=502)
"Conduct <i>must be</i> illegal for it to be called <i>corrupt</i> ".	58	58
"If something is done <i>for the right reasons</i> , it <i>cannot</i> be called <i>corrupt</i> ."	*	58
"You <i>can't</i> call something corrupt if <i>everyone</i> does it."	*	89
"You can only call something corrupt if those involved personally benefit from it."	51	*

\* Item not asked of this group.

## 2.5 COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF CORRUPTION AS A PROBLEM

As a general opening question to the survey, all respondents were asked:

*Do you consider that corruption in the NSW public sector is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem for the community?*

The NSW general public seem to recognise corruption in the NSW public sector as a problem. More than four out of every ten of the respondents considered that *corruption in the NSW public sector is a major problem* (44%), others considered it to be *a minor problem* (47%). Very few considered corruption *not to be a problem* (4%). A further 5% had no opinion.

Table 4: Perception of corruption as a problem for the community

Type of problem	% (n=402)
A major problem	44
A minor problem	47
Not a problem	4
No opinion	5
TOTAL	100



*Politicians aren't funding the right things like health care; they're not focussing on the right things and it affects the community which of course affects my family (Case 101);*

*It can affect our services ... (Case 105);*

*Not really sure, it might just be that some percentage of government funds is being used incorrectly which could be going into roads or something (Case 134).*

**Wrong decisions may be made:**

*... If corruption means that the wrong decision is made in regards to a project, it affects us in the end. Local councils bungling contracts with rate payers' money (Case 9);*

*There's lots of it in the building trade - projects go ahead when councils are given a backhander. Tenders going to the wrong person ... (Case 18);*

*It could affect policy decisions that affect the area that we live in (Case 23).*

**Disillusionment/loss of confidence/loss of trust:**

*You lose confidence in politicians and the rest of it (Case 3);*

*It gives us a lack of security in the people running the country. Say for instance the police force, you would be cautious about providing information to the police in case you were talking to someone who was involved in that scene as well (Case 21);*

*Disappoints me; anyone who does the wrong thing, the police involved in drugs, it makes me sad to be Australian (Case 60);*

*Inability to have confidence in the operation of the law ... (Case 116).*

**Corruption in policing makes us feel unsafe:**

*The bad ones in the police force are making it unsafe for us to go out at night because they're letting the criminals get away with stuff, robbing and bashing. They're allowing a criminal element to flourish (not all of them) (Case 93);*

*Re safety: I am concerned that if I ever need to turn to the police force, that I must be able to have complete trust in them not to be influenced by someone else to my detriment. e.g. If my family were threatened with violence, I would expect the police to act on that and not be influenced by payoffs or whatever (Case 116);*

*Police being involved with allowing drug pushers to operate. There's a danger to my kids by having these people out there (Case 129).*

**Creates inequities/advantaging people of influence:**

*The injustice of things, little people going down and the big boys pay their way out. My husband is in the building trade, the working man is always way down at the bottom, and the guys at the top can do anything when they have the money (Case 18);*

*... Like if a shire councillor lives in a street and then that's the only street where they build speed humps (Case 56).*

**Provides a bad example to others:**

*I try to tell my family to do what is right and then I see all these powerful people who do the wrong thing like that police minister... (Case 12);*

*It affects us in many ways, for example, in schooling and starting out in life. It sets a bad example (Case 24);*

*Things like this which are corruption, can influence young children against their parents' standards, against how I raise my children to think and act (Case 42).*

**Can't get a job/affects my chances for employment:**

*There's no jobs, I think that's because they aren't looking after the country, I guess it affects me that way (Case 75);*

*Because I can't get a job. Because they are letting migrants in and they get the jobs and I don't (Case 141).*

**Specific examples (i.e. examples which are very specific to individual respondents):**

*I used to own a waterfront property and the Housing Commission built a development. I argued a case against it and we were brushed aside as Liberals. My family and I lost large sums of money and moved our family away from the rising social problems (Case 8);*

*The M4 I reckon is corrupt, I don't think they should have got the right to charge a toll, especially when the Minister's got a kickback. Now I have to pay an extra \$15 to get to work each week (Case 90);*

*The local councillor, he built cabins in the sand dunes, he got himself in as mayor then he employed a person as the town clerk. The job was never advertised. The councillor went ahead with developments without consulting the locals. The development was environmentally unsound and his profit only. This has caused a lot of outrage to the community. He also lent \$200 000 council money to the fellow he employed to buy a house. The council took him to court over the development he did, but he is now suing the council (Case 114);*

*My local council affects me. I had an application in for eighteen months, it wasn't until I sold to a developer, who went and dealt with the council and sorted it out in one day (Case 432).*

**Other:**

*The politics has an affect on everyone, their motives are not correct, they look after their own party not the community. Party politics is not a good thing (Case 59);*

*As far as the drugs go, there's so many young ones on it and the judges are letting them get away with it. You can deal in drugs and get 2 years for it, in some places they'd hang you for it, they should bring that back (Case 77).*

## 4 ATTITUDES TO REPORTING CORRUPTION

All respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the following two statements:

*There is no point in reporting corruption in the NSW public sector because nothing useful will be done about it.*

*People who report corruption are likely to suffer for it.*

For both of these items, those who disagreed acknowledge the value in reporting corruption. Responses to these items, and to an additional item which was also asked in the 1993 survey, are given in the table below.

Table 6: Attitudes to reporting corruption

Attitude statement	% who disagree	
	1994 (n=402)	1993 (n=502)
"There is <i>no point</i> in reporting corruption in the NSW public sector because <i>nothing useful</i> will be done about it." <sup>2</sup>	65	68
"People who <i>report</i> corruption are likely to suffer for it." <sup>3</sup>	16	21
" <i>Most</i> corruption is <i>too trivial</i> to be worth reporting."	*	84

\* Item not asked of this group.

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<sup>2</sup> Those employed in the Commonwealth public sector (91 %) or NSW state public sector (75 %) were more likely than those not employed in these public sectors to disagree with this statement.

<sup>3</sup> Significantly fewer respondents disagreed with this statement in the 1994 survey than in the 1993 survey.

## 5 AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE ICAC

Forty-five per cent of respondents were able to provide the full name or an abbreviation by which the Commission is known<sup>4</sup> when asked:

*Several years ago, the Government set up a body to deal with corruption in NSW Government organisations. Can you tell me what it is called?*

A further 7% of the respondents supplied an incorrect name, while 48% were not able to give a name at all. Of the 29 respondents who gave an incorrect name, 11 nominated the Ombudsman's Office. Nine of the respondents who supplied an incorrect name offered a confused version of the correct name or the correct abbreviation (e.g., *CIC, Something Against Corruption, Internal Commission Against Corruption, ACIC*).

When compared with previous surveys, results show an increased awareness of the ICAC.

Table 7: Unprompted awareness of the ICAC over time

Identification of the ICAC	March 1989	October 1989	May 1990	November 1993	November 1994
Correct name	3%	16%	21%	42%	45%
Incorrect name	12%	9%	14%	12%	7%
Can't say	85%	75%	66%	47%	48%

When prompted, very few (8%) said that they had *not* heard of the Independent Commission Against Corruption or ICAC (pronounced either I-C-A-C or I-cac).

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<sup>4</sup> A larger proportion of male respondents (52%) than female respondents (39%) were able to provide the correct name. Similarly, a larger proportion of those employed in the state or Commonwealth public sector (59%) were able to provide the correct name than other respondents (42%).

## 6 CORRUPT ACTIVITIES SEEN TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE ICAC

The 371 respondents who were aware of the ICAC were asked:

*There are a lot of different activities which people describe as corrupt. Can you give an example of a type of corrupt activity which the ICAC deals with?*

Respondents were asked to give up to three examples. Almost one-quarter (23%) of the respondents who said they were aware of the ICAC, were unable to provide an example of the type of corruption the Commission deals with. The remaining 285 respondents quoted 573 examples of the type of corruption perceived to be dealt with by the ICAC.

As with an earlier question (see section 2, page 2), each example has been divided into two categories. The first category is the type of person/agency associated with 'corruption' (perpetrator) and the second is the type of activity associated with 'corruption' (conduct). These are discussed separately. Again, it is important to note that the responses reflect *perceptions* of the types of matters that the ICAC deals with. They are *not* an indication that groups or individuals mentioned are actually involved in corrupt activities.

### 6.1 TYPES OF PERCEIVED PERPETRATORS LINKED TO ICAC ACTIVITIES

Of the 285 respondents who answered this question, 71% mentioned police in at least one example, 31% gave an example about politicians and another 18% mentioned Greiner and/or Metherell by name. Public sector or government agencies were mentioned by 12% of respondents and local council/councillors by 8% of the respondents.

**Table 8: Types of people/agencies that the ICAC is seen to deal with**

'Perpetrators'	No. of examples	% of examples	% of respondents
Perpetrator not stated/"people"	92	16	32
Police	203	35	71
Politicians/MPs	88	15	31
Greiner and/or Metherell	51	9	18
Public sector/government agencies	33	6	12
Local councils	23	4	8
Public officials	20	4	7
Industry/private companies	14	2	5
Legal system/judges	11	2	4
The workforce/workers	11	2	4
Other	27	5	10

## 6.2 TYPES OF CONDUCT LINKED TO ICAC ACTIVITIES

Nearly half of the 285 respondents (49%) gave an example of a perpetrator without specifying a type of conduct in connection with it. For example: *Corruption in the police force* (Case 25) or *Corporate corruption* (Case 84).

Table 9: Type of conduct the ICAC is perceived as dealing with

Type of conduct	No. of examples	% of examples	% of respondents
Conduct not stated/"corruption"	139	24	49
Bribery/gifts (no context)	74	13	26
Bribes - tendering/contracting	7	1	3
Bribes - land rezoning/development applications	5	1	2
Bribes - turn a blind eye/fix fines	21	4	7
Bribes - driving tests	3	1	1
Bribes - other contexts	6	1	2
Doing favours for money	4	1	1
Favouritism/partiality (no context)	3	1	1
Favouritism - tendering/contracting	8	1	3
Favouritism - land rezoning/development applications	12	2	4
Favouritism - employment	22	4	8
Favouritism - other contexts	2	0	1
Drugs - (growing/taking/dealing/stealing)	44	8	15
Feathering own nest	12	2	4
Misappropriating funds/embezzlement	42	7	15
Misuse of position/power	9	2	3
Dishonesty/suppressing info/cover ups	23	4	8
Misuse - resources/time	2	0	1
Selling/misusing information	13	2	5
Other problems - land rezoning/development applications	14	2	5
Other problems - tendering/contracting	10	2	4
Fraud/white collar crime/tax rorts	10	2	4
Organised crime/major corruption	12	2	4
Inappropriate relations	4	1	1
Sexual harassment	9	2	3
Bending rules	8	1	3
Conflict of interest	3	1	1
Prostitution	4	1	1
Other - general	9	2	3
Other - criminal	31	5	11
Other - made no sense	8	1	3

Some form of bribery was mentioned in at least one example by 33% of the respondents who quoted examples.

E.g., ... *to investigate bribes being taken by people in the public sector* (Case 151);

... *[to look at] where senior government officials are on the take* (Case 137).

In comparison, only 15% of these respondents mentioned favouritism or partiality (any form) in at least one example. Other relatively frequently mentioned types of conduct included:

Drugs - (growing/taking/dealing/stealing)	(15% of respondents);
Misappropriating funds/embezzlement	(15% of respondents);
Other - criminal offences (e.g., death threats, fraud)	(11% of respondents);
Dishonesty/covering up/suppressing information	(8% of respondents).

### 6.3 LINKING PERCEIVED PERPETRATOR WITH CONDUCT

Again, analysis was undertaken to ascertain the types of conduct which respondents connected with each of the perceived perpetrators. Overall, the most common examples fell into the following categories:

Police corruption/conduct not specified	48 examples
Police accepting bribes/gifts (no context given)	41 examples
Police involvement with drugs	34 examples
Greiner/Metherell, corruption/conduct not specified	34 examples
Politicians, corruption/conduct not specified	25 examples
Police 'taking bribes to turn a blind eye'	20 examples
Politicians misappropriating funds	15 examples
Police involved in cover-ups/dishonesty	15 examples
Police involved in other criminal offences	15 examples
Perpetrator not stated/people misappropriating funds	14 examples
Greiner/Metherell, favouritism in employment	13 examples
Politicians accepting bribes/gifts (no context given)	10 examples

These results suggest the ICAC is still strongly identified as a body which deals with police and politicians and is still associated with the 'Greiner/Metherell matter'. It also appears that people think of 'corruption dealt with by the ICAC' in terms of *who* is dealt with by the ICAC perhaps more strongly than *what conduct* is dealt with by the Commission.

This second point becomes more evident when the results of the question *What do you think of when you hear the words 'Corruption in the NSW public sector'?* (see section 2) are compared with the result of the question *Can you give an example of a type of corrupt activity which the ICAC deals with?* It was found that in response to the earlier question, examples were more likely to focus on conduct (e.g., *bribery* or *people doing favours for money*) while responses to the latter question were more likely to focus on the perpetrator

(e.g., *police corruption* or *they look at politicians*).<sup>5</sup> To compare the results of section 2 to this section, go to Appendix 3.

The perpetrators most likely to be identified as those dealt with by the Commission are discussed below. The types of conduct attributed to these people are also listed.

## Police

Of the examples mentioning police, 24% were very general, e.g., *Police corruption such as the Fitzgerald inquiry* (Case 132) or *They look at the police ...* (Case 133).

Twenty per cent of the examples about police concerned bribery (no context given), while a further 10% concerned taking bribes for turning a blind eye or fixing things.

E.g., *Police bribery - giving police money to lay off [the person being investigated by the police]* (Case 356);

*... police being paid off to leave brothels alone ...* (Case 369);

*They deal with corruption in the police force, like people who are charged with various crimes paying off police officers to dismiss the charges or reduce them to a lesser charge ...* (Case 414).

Activities involving drugs (growing, taking, stealing and dealing) was another category of conduct which people connected with police corruption dealt with by the ICAC (17% of the examples about police).

E.g., *The police ... have been caught with drugs that they've seized from raids* (Case 45);

*The police selling drugs; taking drugs off people and selling it for their own profit* (Case 121);

*Police running organised crime, I think they were selling drugs themselves, I can't remember whether they were growing it or ... it was just what they had impounded in busts* (Case 134);

*The police and their involvement with drugs such as reselling confiscated drugs* (Case 166);

*Police; I suppose the most commonly published one would be in the drug industry ... the rumour that the drugs disappear after the police get hold of them and then find their way back into street sales* (Case 205).

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<sup>5</sup> It is interesting to note that in 65% of the responses to the question 'what do you think of when you hear the words 'corruption in the NSW public sector'?' the perpetrator was specified, compared to 84% of responses to the question about the type of corruption the ICAC deals with. Conversely, 91% of responses to the former question specified a conduct compared to only 76% of the latter question (see Tables A and B in Appendix 3).



In 7% of the examples concerning police, dishonesty/suppressing information or cover ups were mentioned.

E.g., *The police force ... they've been caught out lying; on charges that they say it's been done and it hasn't been done* (Case 348);

*Police covering up crimes, not reporting crimes or committing crimes ...* (Case 68);

*Police have a history of corruption. It can take many forms but the most heavily felt in the community would be cover-ups of drugs ...* (Case 338).

It appears that in spite of the formation of the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service, a large proportion of the public still identify the ICAC as dealing with police work. The results also suggest that the Commission may be credited with matters concerning police in which it did not actually have any involvement (e.g., some matters involving police misuse of drugs).

### Politicians

Of the examples about politicians, a large number concerned the Greiner/Metherell matter. For this reason 'Greiner/Metherell' was coded as a separate perceived perpetrator. Two-thirds of those who mentioned Greiner and/or Metherell by name did not specify the activity they thought they were involved in (e.g., *There was one with the ex-premier of NSW, Nick Greiner ...* (Case 257)). Just over one-quarter (26%) specified some form of favouritism in employment as the conduct they believed they were involved in.

E.g., *The one with Nick Greiner that made him leave office, I think it was the jobs for the boys thing* (Case 172);

*Nick Greiner and Metherell supposedly working out a job between them, jobs for the boys; sort of thing I didn't really consider that corrupt* (Case 236);

*... Nick Greiner... hired his friend and they investigated that* (Case 153);

*The Greiner business; he was going to give a job to an independent so he could keep his numbers up in the house* (Case 227).

A small number of respondents mentioned Greiner's name in connection with other types of conduct e.g., *Dealt with Greiner telling lies* (Case 251).

Following are examples of perceived conduct by politicians generally, not just Greiner or Metherell.

Corruption generally (28%):

E.g., *Politics/the corruption of politicians...* (Case 106).

**Misappropriating funds (17%):**

E.g., *Politicians who are misusing their funds by having exorbitant travel expenses (Case 423);*

*Politicians embezzling funds (Case 275).*

**Any form of bribery (15%):**

E.g., *If a Minister has taken a payment from a business which is tendering for a government deal (Case 43);*

*Politicians doing the wrong thing/taking bribes (Case 182).*

**Any form of favouritism (8%):**

E.g., *A minister making a favourable decision to a developer where there may be a clearly defined disadvantage to the public (Case 159).*

**Sexual harassment (6%):**

E.g., *Abuse of power like Mr Griffiths; he was involved in sexual harassment, I don't know if that went to ICAC, they deal with that kind of thing (Case 35);*

*Fellows in government sexually harassing female staff members. (Case 183).*

**Feathering their own nests (5%):**

E.g., *You've got to go for the politicians ... Financial gain for their own benefit - feathering their own nest (Case 205);*

*Politicians/there are always politicians there to line their own pockets... (Case 199).*

**Public officials/public sector agencies**

To simplify the discussion, the categories of 'public official' and 'public sector/government agencies' have been combined. Only 9% of the examples concerned the public sector or its employees. The following comments illustrate the types of conduct by public officials/public sector agencies that are seen as being dealt with by the ICAC.

**Some form of bribery (23%):**

E.g., *They deal with bribery in the public sector that affects the community. ... They are receiving a certain benefit that disadvantages others (Case 403);*

*It seems to be centred, rightly, on the police, and law and order, but also on bribery in many of the public sector departments (Case 338).*

**Some form of favouritism (19%):**

*E.g., The government officials get contractors known to them so they benefit materially or financially or doing a friend a favour when building or developing (Case 428).*

**Misuse of information (11%):**

*E.g., People like private investigators bribing the public service for confidential information (Case 59).*

**Misappropriating funds (9%):**

*E.g., State Railways' misappropriation of government funds (Case 4);*

*Where there has been a misappropriation of funds within a government organisation (Case 113).*

### **Local councils**

Four per cent of all examples concerned local councils, mainly in the area of land development and rezoning. Bribery was the type of conduct most frequently mentioned. Examples include:

*The Randwick Council - people are getting plans passed for building by giving them money; they are taking bribes (Case 28);*

*Councils allowing waste to be dumped illegally in return for payment to council officers (Case 40);*

*Investigating developers who have paid of council members to get approval for some development (Case 307).*

**Other types of conduct mentioned included:**

*Contracting work to somebody, tendering - the council gives secret quote to someone else to undercut ... (Case 3);*

*Local council - e.g., South Sydney Council - people were leaving out beer bottles for them (Case 297).*

### **The legal system/judiciary**

Only 2% of all examples concerned the judiciary or the legal system. In most cases the conduct was not specified or was termed 'bribery'. One example given was: *A judge accepting a bribe to change his decision (Case 285).*

### **Other perceived perpetrators and conduct types**

It was interesting that a number of individuals and matters mentioned by respondents have had no involvement with the ICAC and not necessarily any involvement with corruption. Those named included Alan Bond, Christopher Skase, John Elliot, Brian Burke, Jo Bjelke-Peterson, Harry Blackburn, Lennie McPherson, Rex Jackson, the Victorian Police (record of shooting suspects), Queensland Ministers (environmental issues), Coles/Myers and Ivan Milat (sacking his lawyers).

The Commission was also seen to be involved or confused with the Civil Aviation Authority, the Australian Taxation Office, the Building Industry Royal Commission and the Casino Control Authority. Activities that people believe the ICAC has investigated include faulty planes, the building industry, corruption in the tax office and Aboriginal deaths in custody.

From the public's point of view, the boundaries between the various mechanisms of government and regulation appear, at times, to be blurred. Had another organisation (e.g., the NCA) conducted this survey, they too may have been credited with a number of the above achievements. It should be remembered, however, that the number of responses falling into this category were in the minority.

### **ICAC investigations which were mentioned**

While the NSW Police Service featured prominently, only a few people specifically mentioned police involvement with criminals as a matter that the ICAC deals with. The Metherell matter, land deals in the North Coast, bribes being accepted by driving examiners, corruption in Randwick Council, misuse of confidential information and the paedophile matter (one example) were all mentioned. Also mentioned were Philip Smiles, Ian Causley, Terry Griffiths, political donations and work on the private use of government vehicles (undertaken by the Corruption Prevention Department).

## 7 UNDERSTANDING OF THE ICAC FUNCTIONS

The 371 respondents who said that they had heard of the ICAC were also asked:

### *What does the ICAC do about corrupt activities?*

As Table 10 indicates, 18% of respondents who said that they knew of the ICAC, were not aware of any of the Commission's functions. In terms of the Commission's three statutory functions, respondents seem to have a far greater awareness of the Commission's investigative role (47%) than its preventative (6%) or educative (0%) functions<sup>6</sup>.

More respondents recognised that the Commission *recommends* prosecutions (16%) rather than prosecutes or takes people to trial itself (12%). Fifteen per cent of respondents were aware the ICAC produces reports.

Table 10: What does the ICAC do about corrupt activities?

Types of action taken	% (n=371)*
Investigates	47
Corruption prevention/changes systems or policies/tries to prevent	6
Educates (the general community and/or public sector)	0
Recommends prosecutions	16
Prepares a report	15
Prosecutes/takes to trial	12
Exposes corruption to the public	7
Holds hearings/inquiry	6
Passes the information to appropriate authorities	6
Punishes/disciplines/gaols or fines	5
Solves the problem	3
Receives information/complaints about corruption	1
Sets standards for what is or isn't corrupt	1
Nothing/wastes money	6
Other	11
Don't know what ICAC does	18

\* Percentages add to more than 100 because some respondents specified more than one function of the ICAC.

### 7.1 KNOWLEDGE OF ICAC FUNCTIONS OVER TIME

Data about community knowledge of ICAC functions have been collected periodically since December 1990. In order to compare the results of earlier surveys to the results of the 1994

<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that respondents may use the word 'investigate' more broadly than the ICAC, that is, not just to describe the work undertaken by the Investigations Department of the ICAC.

survey, the figures reported above must be recalculated. Figures in Table 10 report the percentage of those who had said that they knew about the ICAC. However, to remain consistent with the data from earlier years, the percentages which follow are the percentage of the whole sample (including those who have not heard of the ICAC).

Table 11 indicates that awareness of the ICAC's corruption prevention role has increased from 1% in 1993 to 5% in 1994. Compared to the last survey, the percentage of all respondents who mentioned the Commission's investigative function dropped from 56% to 44%. The percentage of all respondents who said that they did not know what the ICAC does remained at 25%.

In drawing comparisons across the years, it is important to note that the questions asked to glean this information have varied. Prior to 1993 respondents were asked: *To the best of your knowledge, what does the ICAC do?*; in 1993 respondents were asked *What does the ICAC do*. In 1994, after being asked to give examples of a type of corrupt activity that the ICAC deals with, respondents were asked *What does the ICAC do about those corrupt activities?* with a follow up question *What else does the ICAC do about corrupt activities in the NSW public sector?*

**Table 11: Knowledge of ICAC functions 1990 - 1994**

ICAC functions	Dec. 1990 (351) %	June 1991 (354) %	Dec. 1991 (357) %	July 1992 (352) %	Oct. 1992 (352) %	Nov. 1993 (502) %	Nov. 1994 (402) <sup>***</sup> %
Investigation	28	22	20	28	30	56	44
Corruption Prevention	1	-	2	2	2	1	5
Education	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Nothing/wastes money	1	2	5	2	-	3	5
Don't know*	40	56	51	27	33	25	25

The percentages included in the "Don't know" row, for each survey, include both those who were unaware of the ICAC as well as those who could not name any of the Commission's functions.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> As Table 10 only shows the responses of those who were aware of the ICAC (n=371), the 1994 percentages are slightly different to those presented in this table (calculated for a sample of 402).

## **7.2 PERCEIVED FOCUS OF THE ICAC**

The 371 respondents who said that they had heard of the ICAC were asked:

***Do you believe that the ICAC is more interested in investigating individuals or reducing the opportunities for corruption?***

Most respondents did not spontaneously mention corruption prevention as an ICAC function. However, in response to this more direct question, 40% of the respondents thought the ICAC has a greater interest in reducing opportunities for corruption than in investigating

individuals. While respondents were answering a direct question, the results are encouraging - especially given the higher public profile of the Commission's investigative work.

**Table 12: Perceived focus of the ICAC**

Focus	% (n=371)
Investigating individuals	31
Reducing opportunities for corruption	40
Both	7
Other	3
Not sure/don't know	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

Examples of responses classified in the 'other' category include:

*I'm from Scotland and the corruption in NSW really hits you in the face. On the whole, I think they try to reduce opportunities, also by following up individuals (Case 18);*

*Neither, because the ICAC investigate only what is referred to them, they don't select cases (Case 33);*

*Long term aim to reduce, but I think in the short term and more recently they have been more interested in individuals (Case 43);*

*It's the same thing, if you investigate individuals it's because they are corrupt, it's usually pretty subtle (Case 105);*

*You can hardly reduce the opportunities without investigating the individuals; it's the only way to find the corruption - going through the individual (Case 148);*

*I think they should catch everybody (Case 374).*

## 8 SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ICAC

The 371 respondents who said that they had heard of the ICAC were asked:

*Do you think that having the ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW? Why do you say that?*

Table 13: Support for work of ICAC

Opinion of ICAC	1994 % (n=371)	1993 % (n=486)
A good thing	91	92
Not a good thing	4	3
Not sure/Don't know	5 <sup>7</sup>	4
TOTAL	100	100

Table 14: Reasons for whether ICAC is a good thing for NSW or not

Reasons given	% <sup>*</sup> (n=371)
<b><i>Good thing</i></b>	
Acts as a watchdog/need something	30
Exposes corruption	23
It acts as a deterrent	21
Stops corruption/Has an effect	16
Because it is independent	10
Anything is better than nothing	9
Gives people somewhere to go to report corruption	5
Reassuring to have the ICAC	2
ICAC's power	1
You can trust the ICAC	1
If, ...	6
Other	3
<b><i>Not a good thing</i></b>	
Waste of money	3
It hasn't changed anything	3
Doesn't follow through	2
Effects on innocent people	2
Too slow/takes too long	1
There should be more convictions	1
Other - not a good thing	1
<b><i>Don't know</i></b>	
Don't know	3

\* Percentages add up to more than 100%, as respondents were able to give more than one reason.

<sup>7</sup> Unemployed respondents were more likely to be uncertain (9%) than were employed respondents (3%).



As can be seen from Table 13, the vast majority of the respondents considered the ICAC as a good thing for NSW. Also worth noting is that the responses given in 1994 are very similar to those given twelve months earlier. Reasons given for the opinions expressed in the 1994 survey are summarised in Table 14 and illustrated in the examples below.

## **GOOD THING**

### **Acts as a watchdog/need something:**

*There has got to be a watchdog; to keep the politicians honest - they'd lie all the time if it weren't there (Case 9);*

*Because it's good to have a body that operates as a watchdog (Case 13);*

*You need somebody keeping an eye on everybody (Case 112).*

### **Exposes corruption:**

*Because they do expose to the public some of the corrupt activity (Case 22);*

*It exposes corruption and makes sure people do something about it (Case 83);*

*I've heard so many things on the TV and people have been caught through these inquiries, I think they're doing a good job (Case 176).*

### **It acts as a deterrent:**

*I think it does make some people think about the possibility that they may get caught as a mechanism is there (Case 8);*

*For some people it might be a deterrent just knowing that the Commission exists (Case 91);*

*It keeps people on the straight and narrow ... (Case 122).*

### **Stops corruption/Has an effect:**

*... it's good in that it does cure the problems that do exist (Case 29);*

*It cleans the government up; sorts out the bad guys from the good guys (Case 36);*

*Well, it must keep the lid on corruption a little bit (Case 131).*

### **Independent (because it is independent):**

*Because its not affiliated to any political party, they can scare anybody; politically they cannot cover anything up (Case 3);*

*It's an independent body so if it's not corrupt itself it must be good (Case 50);*

*I think you've got to have an independent body. They are impartial and not going to be influence by politics or whoever. They should be incorruptible (Case 129).*

**Anything is better than nothing:**

*... you've got to start somewhere ... (Case 43);*

*There's got to be something or somebody that can deal with corruption (Case 87).*

**Gives people somewhere to go to report corruption:**

*... you need somewhere to go. Money talks, it's the working class who get trodden on (Case 18);*

*... gives people more confidence in reporting corruption (Case 40).*

**Reassuring to have the ICAC:**

*Because it makes the public happy to know that they exist (Case 65);*

*... It's a comfort for people to know that they are there (Case 111).*

**ICAC's power:**

*What we can't bring to justice they can with the powers they have (Case 12);*

*... At least we have a body who has some teeth (Case 33);*

**You can trust the ICAC:**

*The community can put trust in them (Case 35).*

**Puts corruption on the (government) agenda:**

*... draw people's attention to the problem. It focuses public debate on it, people comment through the media. Lets the Government know that it is an issue (Case 43).*

**If, ... :**

*If it stops some of the corruption; it keeps people in line (Case 15);*

*... If they follow it up and do the job properly (Case 47);*

*If they did their job properly they'd be good but not if they don't (Case 58);*

*... even if it stops just a little bit it is good (Case 106).*

**Other:**

*... but I don't see the point in having royal commissions and the ICAC, it's just feeding the barristers (Case 38).*

## **NOT A GOOD THING**

### **Waste of money:**

*... All the cost involved in these investigations and nothing coming from it (Case 5);*

*The cost involved ... the cost of lawyers that we have to bear is sometimes a bit astronomical. It's good in that it does cure the problems that do exist, but there should be a cheaper way you would think (Case 29).*

### **It hasn't changed anything:**

*... It hasn't changed anything, people sometimes get prosecuted but it doesn't stop corruption from going on (Case 45).*

### **Doesn't follow through:**

*... Things not getting followed through (Case 5).*

### **Effects on innocent people:**

*Because the benefits that the ICAC may accrue for the community in general are probably outweighed by the effect it has on innocent parties caught up in the process, particularly through media publicity (Case 61).*

### **Too slow/takes too long:**

*... They seem to go on forever (Case 29).*

### **There should be more convictions:**

*... There should be more convictions of politicians (Case 75).*

### **Other - not a good thing:**

*I just don't feel they've done their job properly (Case 5).*

## **DON'T KNOW**

*Well I don't know who is in the ICAC (Case 48);*

*I don't know anything about the ICAC (Case 53).*

## 8.1 PERCEIVED SUCCESS OF ICAC IN EXPOSING AND IN MINIMISING CORRUPTION IN THE NSW PUBLIC SECTOR

Respondents who said they had heard of the ICAC were also asked to rate the Commission's success in terms of its mission statement. The questions were:

*Do you think that the ICAC has been successful or unsuccessful in exposing some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW?*

*Do you think that the ICAC has been successful or unsuccessful in reducing the level of corruption which has occurred in NSW?*

Table 15: Perceived success of the ICAC

Attitudes statements	November 1994 %			November 1993 %		
	S	U	DK	S	U	DK
Do you think that the ICAC has been successful or unsuccessful in <i>exposing</i> some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW?	78	10	12	80	9	11
Do you think that the ICAC has been successful or unsuccessful in <i>reducing</i> the level of corruption which has occurred in NSW?	43 <sup>8</sup>	36	21	53	30	17

S = Successful (or also very successful in 1993); U = Unsuccessful (or also very unsuccessful in 1993); DK = Don't know

As Table 15 indicates, people clearly differentiated between the two questions. About the same percentage of respondents as in 1993 expressed the view that the ICAC has been successful in *exposing* some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW. However, in 1994, significantly less respondents than in the 1993 survey considered the ICAC to have been successful in *reducing* the level of the corruption which has occurred in NSW (43% as compared to 53% in the 1993 survey). One explanation for this drop may be that during 1994, much of the publicity about the ICAC concerned organisational issues (e.g., the appointment of a new Commissioner) rather than investigations or other results of the Commission's work.

<sup>8</sup> Male respondents (55%) were more likely to think that the ICAC had been successful in reducing the level of corruption than were female respondents (32%). Similarly employed respondents (49%) were more likely to think that the ICAC had been successful than unemployed respondents (34%).

## 9 SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

The 371 respondents who said they had heard of the ICAC were also asked:

*As part of its work the ICAC sometimes holds hearings. Some of these hearings are held in private, others are open to the public. Under what circumstances do you think that hearings should be open to the public?*

It is interesting to note how few respondents thought hearings should always be in private (4%). The findings and the comments appear in more detail below. In summary, they seem to reflect the view that the ICAC and hearings in particular, are important accountability mechanisms. Hearings provide an opportunity for the community to witness those in positions of public trust being held accountable both for their activities and the public monies they manage.

**Table 16: Circumstances under which hearings should be open to the public**

Circumstances given	% (n=371)
Always/under all circumstances	43
In public if it affects the public	15
Mostly in public, except where it raises issues of personal safety	4
Mostly in public - other	5
In public only when it won't hurt innocent people	9
After initial hearings have been held in private	5
Should be left to ICAC discretion	3
Never/under no circumstances	4
Other	5
Don't know	8

Examples of responses, classified into a number of these different categories, are provided below.

### **In public if it affects the public:**

*Anything that affects the tax paying public should be held in public (Case 18);*

*When the public is directly affected by them and the public need to know what has happened and what is going on (Case 23);*

*When questioning public or government officials it should be in public and businesses regarding their dealings with the public (Case 27);*

*Anything that directly involves the public, like something in the medical system or government or police corruption (Case 96);*

*When they are in the public interest; where a public issue is at stake (Case 120);*

*When it affects the public; if there was corruption in buildings, people cutting corners on buildings could affect the public's safety (Case 256).*

**Mostly in public, except where it raises issues of personal safety:**

*Most except when say there are people giving evidence and it raises issues of their personal safety (Case 63);*

*Should only be in camera when it is dangerous for something to be exposed through the media; in most cases it should be in public (Case 68);*

*If it's dangerous it probably shouldn't be public, but we pay for it, so if it's not we should be able to go to hearings (Case 99);*

*They should all be unless the Commissioner feels that a person's life or property might be in jeopardy (Case 111).*

**Mostly in public - other:**

*Anything besides sexual things should be open to the public (Case 192);*

*Always except for juveniles and where its a delicate subject (e.g. child abuse) (Case 208);*

*They all should be except the ones that are to do with national security; things that might not be beneficial if it got out, say in the Defence Force (Case 240);*

*Commonsense has to come into it in as far as how it would affect children involved; but I'm a great believer in open courts in every matter except where children are involved. I don't believe in adults getting any protection, especially politicians! (Case 338);*

*Most of them because the public's got a right to know, especially with social security because it's us workers who's paying for it (Case 447).*

**In public only when it won't hurt innocent people:**

*They should, but not all the time; until they're sure the charge will stick; if you accuse someone innocent, their name will be thrown in the mud (Case 3);*

*When it's for the public good and will not hurt an individual unjustly, so not under all circumstances (Case 46);*

*When someone's action has been unproven it's unfair to make it public, those people are virtually guilty by the media (Case 198);*

*If the hearing involves particular people who may be innocent or whose reputation is at stake then hearings should be closed to the public (Case 444).*

**Should be left to ICAC discretion:**

*Mostly public, unless the ICAC decides it shouldn't be public, you have to trust the ICAC to use its discretion (Case 11);*

*Should be public except where the ICAC feels that it should be private to protect people (Case 102);*

*Should be left to the discretion of the head of the ICAC (Case 105);*

*Depends on what they're investigating, I think it's up to them to decide. I think they should keep quiet about what they're investigating so the person involved doesn't cover it up (Case 224).*

**Other:**

*Either everything or nothing. All public or all private. If it's in private they're hiding something (Case 30);*

*If it's big. If it's something that people are doing that they don't know is wrong, it could be an educational kind of thing (Case 91);*

*I think each case should go on its own merit, otherwise people won't want to testify (Case 186).*

## 10 IMAGES OF THE ICAC DERIVED FROM THE MEDIA

The 1993 community attitude survey revealed, perhaps not surprisingly, that newspaper and television reports are the most common sources of information about the ICAC. Accordingly in the 1994 survey, the 371 respondents who said they had heard of the ICAC were asked:

*The ICAC has been in the public eye quite a bit. Can you tell me what the stories have been about? (Probe, Any others?)*

It seems that community recall of stories relating to the ICAC is not good (see Table 17). Almost half of the respondents were unable to recall any specific stories about the Commission<sup>9</sup>. This should be considered in context. It may be that community recall of reports about any individual government organisation would be fairly poor.

Table 17: Recollection of stories about the ICAC

Stories recalled	% (n=371)
Can't remember	47
Metherell/Greiner matter	28
Police corruption (no further details)	11
Cover up of sexual harassment by Terry Griffiths	8
The new Commissioner	6
The relationship between police and criminals (including Neddy Smith)	5
Temby (initial Commissioner) leaving	5
Temby representing the police/Lauer	3
North coast land deals	2
Police - other	2
Viability of ICAC	1
Establishment of Royal Commission into Police Corruption	1
RTA and land sales	1
Randwick	1
The release of confidential government information	1
Tow truck investigation	1
Police protection of paedophiles	*
Walsh Bay	*
Corruption issues outside NSW	4
Other	5

\* Recalled by less than 1% of the respondents who were asked this question.

The most frequently mentioned individual matter was the investigation of the Metherell resignation and appointment ("the Metherell/Greiner matter"). This was mentioned by more

<sup>9</sup> Female respondents (53%), the unemployed (58%) and those not working in the public sector (46%) were more likely not to be able to recall any stories than were male respondents (41%), the employed (41%) and, more specifically, those employed in the public sector (35%).



### 3 PERCEIVED EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION ON THE INDIVIDUAL AND/OR FAMILY

All 402 respondents were asked:

*We are interested in ways that different people feel that corruption in the NSW public sector affects their lives ... PAUSE Do you feel that corruption in the NSW public sector affects you or your family, in any way?*

Forty-six per cent of respondents considered that corruption in the NSW public sector did affect them or their families in some way. A further 6% were unsure whether or not it had an effect. It is interesting to note that the percentage who considered corruption to have an effect on their or their family's lives, was far less than the percentage of the 1993 survey respondents who considered that corruption had effects on the broader community (89%). Respondents appeared to have more difficulty in identifying how corruption actually impacts upon their lives, than in thinking about the effects of corruption in more global terms.

Table 5: Perceived effects of corruption

Perceived effects	Effects on individual	Effects on community
	1994 % (n=402)	1993* % (n=502)
Financial effects	20	24
Quality of service is lessened/money being diverted from service	6	1
Wrong decisions may be made	5	-
Disillusionment/loss of confidence/loss of trust	5	36
Corruption in policing makes us feel unsafe	5	-
Creates inequities/advantaging people of influence	4	3
Provides a bad example to others	3	9
Can't get a job/affects my chances for employment	1	-
Specific example	7	-
Everyone is affected (doesn't specify how)	6	-
Don't know - You/I/family am affected (doesn't specify how)	7	14
Other	10	9
Corruption does not have an effect	48	12

\* In the 1993 community attitudes survey respondents were asked about effects on the *community* rather than effects on them and/or their families: "Do you think corruption in the New South Wales public sector has any effects on the community?" (If yes) "What effects do you think it has on the community?"

The percentages in both columns represent the proportions of each sample who nominated these effects as an answer to the open-ended questions stated above. The percentages associated with each of these effects may well have been higher if respondents had been specifically asked whether they considered each of these to be effects of corruption.

### **3.1 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEEING CORRUPTION AS A PROBLEM FOR NSW AND THE BELIEF THAT CORRUPTION AFFECTS THE INDIVIDUAL AND/OR FAMILY**

A cross-tabulation was undertaken to ascertain whether there was any relationship between the belief that corruption is a problem for NSW and the belief that corruption affects respondents and their families. The results indicated that significantly more of those who thought that corruption affected them or their families considered corruption in NSW to be a major problem (58%), compared to respondents who did *not* think that corruption affected them and their families (43%).

### **3.2 HOW RESPONDENTS PERCEIVE CORRUPTION AFFECTS THEM AND/OR THEIR FAMILIES**

Those who thought that corruption affected them or their families, or those who said they did not know were then asked:

*In what way does it affect you or your family?*

As Table 5 indicates, the way corruption was seen to affect respondents and their families differed from the way it was seen to impact upon the community. Disillusionment and loss of confidence in the mechanisms of government were more frequently raised as community concerns. In contrast, the impact of corruption on services provided and on wrong decisions being made were emphasised as effects on individuals and their families. Some examples of responses, classified in these different categories, are provided below.

#### **Financial effects:**

*We've got to pay for them in taxes and stuff (Case 17);*

*As taxpayers we are paying for financial corruption. It costs the taxpayers and it continues when enquiries are carried out and in court appearances (Case 21);*

*If something is being done corruptly it's not being done the way we would expect it to. If it's wasting taxpayers' time while they sort it out then it has to be paid for; it has to be rectified later and we are the ones who will have to pay for it (Case 84);*

*We possibly pay more for services such as railway fares due to cost increases because of flow on effect ... (e.g., the railways give a cleaning contract out to someone who is not doing a good job, we as taxpayers pay someone else to make up for the lack of service) (Case 113);*

*... Anytime someone else obtains a benefit which is outside the law, that will inevitably have a financial effect on me. Let's suppose that the licensing of the Sydney Casino were corrupt and that involved state funds, that would have an effect on me in terms of the taxes I pay and funding to services which I may need (Case 116).*

#### **Quality of service is lessened/money being diverted from service:**

*I suppose with people accepting deals we end up paying for it by ... lack of service (Case 66);*

than one-quarter of the respondents<sup>10</sup>. Although this investigation occurred in 1992, it is recalled more frequently than any of the more recent matters.

Some of the stories mentioned simply concerned 'police corruption' - there was no further elaboration provided (11%). It was not clear whether the respondents were referring to work of the ICAC or to the work of other agencies such as the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service. It is also possible they were referring to an combination of both.

More than one-third of the respondents (36%) mentioned the subject matter of at least one investigation undertaken by the ICAC (e.g., the Metherell/Greiner matter, the relationship between police and criminals, RTA and land sales). Some respondents (14%) described stories about the personalities or politics associated with the ICAC (e.g., the end of Ian Temby's term as Commissioner, the establishment of the Royal Commission into Police Corruption, Ian Temby representing the police/Police Commissioner at the Royal Commission). Others (4%) described work which clearly had not been undertaken by the ICAC (e.g., matters referring to John Elliot, the bombing of the NCA in South Australia, Christopher Skase, Coles-Myer, the Fitzgerald Inquiry).

It seems that while media reports are the most common source of information regarding the ICAC, the information gleaned by the public is often more impressionistic than detailed.

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<sup>10</sup> Male respondents (35%) were more likely than female respondents (22%) to mention the Greiner/Metherell matter.

## 11 KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIFIC PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY THE ICAC

An attempt was made to assess public awareness of an ICAC project. The recent investigation into the relationship between police and criminals (report released in January 1994) was considered as an option. However, given the establishment of the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service and recent stories about police corruption unrelated to the work of the ICAC, we could not be sure that any recall of police related issues would be as a result of this investigation or as a result of these other activities. Accordingly, a major project on the release of confidential information, completed in August 1992, was selected. From Table 17 it can be seen that only 1% of the respondents recalled this project when asked to describe stories about the ICAC. In order to determine community awareness of this project, the 371 respondents who had been aware of the ICAC were asked:

*The ICAC has worked on many different issues. Are you aware of any work the ICAC has done about public servants giving out or selling confidential information about members of the public?*

When asked specifically about this project, 25% claimed to be aware of it. They were then asked:

*What did the ICAC do about this? and then And what else happened?*

Four per cent of the 371 respondents who were aware of the ICAC provided what might be described as an accurate description of the matter, for example:

*Through my own department I know about it ... quite a few years ago they named some people who had given out information to private investigators etc. ... (Case 38);*

*The sale of information from the RTA (Case 159);*

*...the police selling private information to private investigators (Case 187).*

Seven per cent of respondents provided a less clear description, e.g.:

*They checked personal records of the people they were looking for (Case 413).*

One individual gave an incorrect description and a further 14% could not recall the details.

When describing action the ICAC took, 5% described actions pertaining to individual offenders, e.g.:

*People were fined. They were sacked from their positions (Case 21);*

*There were prosecutions over it, so it was passed to the Director of Public Prosecutions (Case 68);*

*I think those people who were responsible suffered some penalty. I don't know if they were kicked out or not (Case 198).*

Two per cent described action pertaining to improving systems, e.g.:

*I think they made a report and made some recommendations about the tightening up of procedures for obtaining this information (Case 63);*

*They recommended that legislation be brought in so police officers cannot access personal files (Case 432).*

Some described actions relating to both individuals and systems:

*They made recommendations to tighten controls on access to computerised information, changing passwords more often, things like that. Some people resigned or got the sack over it (Case 38).*

A further 17% could not remember what action was taken.

This lack of recall of an individual ICAC project may reflect any of a number of possibilities or combination of possibilities including:

- i) the investigation and its consequences were not communicated widely to the general community at the time;
- ii) the investigation and subsequent report were publicised but people did not see how the matters raised affected them as individuals and therefore did not take much notice;
- iii) people have forgotten about the investigation and the issues it raised. This would be understandable as it was completed 27 months prior to this survey.

## APPENDIX 1:

### COPY OF QUESTIONS ASKED AND SUMMARY OF RESPONSES GIVEN<sup>11</sup>

#### COMMUNITY ATTITUDE SURVEY November 1994

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is (.....) from RAMIS Corporation, the research company. May I please speak to the (male/female) in your household, whose birthday is closest to today's date.

If not available, make an appointment. On contact with selected respondent say:

"We are currently conducting a survey on your opinions about corruption in the NSW public sector. Corruption in the NSW public sector is something which is sometimes discussed in the media. I would like to ask you a few questions about your thoughts on corruption in the NSW public sector. Is now a convenient time?"

*(If yes, proceed with interview; if no, make an appointment.)*

Before we start, I'd like you to know that when I ask about "the NSW public sector" I mean all state government departments, statutory authorities, local government, members of the Parliament and the judiciary.

Q1. Do you consider that corruption in the NSW public sector is:

a major problem	<input type="checkbox"/>	44.0%
a minor problem	<input type="checkbox"/>	47.3%
not a problem	<input type="checkbox"/>	4.0%
for the community?		
(No opinion)		4.7%

Q2a. The words "*corruption in the NSW Public sector*" may mean different things to different people. What do you first think of when you hear the words, "*Corruption in the NSW public sector*"?

*(Probe: Can you give me more detail about that?)*

*(Probe for those who have not given three examples,*

Q2b. What else comes to mind when you hear the words "*Corruption in the NSW public sector*"?

Q2c. What else?)

Overall, 666 examples of "corruption in the public sector" were given by 367 of the 402 respondents. While community images of "corruption in the NSW public sector" are diverse, the images described most frequently included: police taking bribes to turn a blind eye (40 examples); police being involved in drug taking, growing, stealing or dealing (39 examples); people taking bribes (context not stated) (36 examples); police taking bribes (context not stated) (30 examples); people feathering their own nests (26 examples); politicians feathering their own nests (19 examples); people misappropriating funds (19 examples); people doing favours for money (13 examples); people suppressing information or covering up (11 examples); people misusing their position or power (11 examples); politicians taking bribes (context not stated) (10 examples); and police suppressing information or covering up (10 examples).

<sup>11</sup> Responses are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 402 NSW adults (aged 18 years or older). Summarised responses are presented in shaded typeface.

Q3. Do you agree or disagree that: "You can only call something corrupt if those involved benefit personally from it"?

Agree	Disagree	(Not sure/Don't know)
45.3%	51.0%	3.7%

Q4. Do you agree or disagree that: "Conduct must be illegal for it to be called corrupt"?

Agree	Disagree	(Not sure/Don't know)
39.6%	57.7%	2.7%

Q5a. We are interested in ways that different people feel that corruption in the NSW public sector affects their lives ... PAUSE Do you feel that corruption in the NSW public sector affects you or your family, in any way?

Yes	No	(Not sure/Don't know)
45.8%	48.0%	6.2%

Q5b. In what way does it affect you or your family?

(If the respondent answers "It costs" or something similar, *probe* with: What exactly do you mean by that? Can you provide an example?)

(For those who answer that they don't know, take them back to the examples they gave in response to Q2, You said that (*repeat their examples*) were examples of public sector corruption. Can you think of ways in which these, or other, examples may affect you or your family?)

Q5c. How else does corruption in the NSW public sector affect you or your family?

Financial effects	19.7
Quality of service is lessened/money being diverted from service	6.2
Wrong decisions may be made	5.2
Disillusionment/loss of confidence/loss of trust	5.0
Corruption in policing makes us feel unsafe	4.7
Creates inequities/advantaging people of influence	3.5
Provides a bad example to others	2.5
Can't get a job/affects my chances for employment	1.2
Specific example	6.5
Everyone is affected (doesn't specify how)	5.5
Don't know - You/I/family am affected (doesn't specify how)	6.5
Other	9.5

Q6. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "There is no point in reporting corruption in the NSW public sector because nothing useful *will* be done about it."?

Agree	Disagree	(Not sure/Don't know)
30.6%	65.2%	4.2%

Q7. Do you agree or disagree that: "People who report corruption are likely to suffer for it."?

Agree	Disagree	(Not sure/Don't know)
72.6%	15.9%	11.4%



**Q8a. Several years ago, the government set up a body to deal with corruption in NSW Government organisations. Can you tell me what it is called?**

Correct name	<input type="checkbox"/>	45.3%
Incorrect name	<input type="checkbox"/>	7.2%
(Not sure/Don't know)	<input type="checkbox"/>	47.5%

**Q8b. For those who give incorrect name or who do not know, ask Have you heard of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the I.C.A.C., or Icac?**

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

*If no to all of these, go to demographics. If yes to any, continue.*

**Combining answers to Q8a & Q8b, 92.3% had heard of ICAC when prompted**

**Q9<sup>12</sup>. There are a lot of different activities which people describe as corrupt. Can you give an example of a type of corrupt activity that the ICAC (use name/pronunciation with which respondent is familiar) deals with?**

**(Probe: Q9b. Can you give me a second example of a type of corrupt activity that the ICAC deals with?**

**Q9c. Can you give me a third example of a type of corrupt activity that the ICAC deals with?)**

**Of the respondents who were aware of the ICAC, almost one-quarter (23%) were unable to provide an example of the type of corruption the Commission deals with.**

**Overall, 573 examples of corruption dealt with by the ICAC were given by the remaining 285 respondents. The most common examples of corrupt activities that the ICAC deals with, given by respondents, were: police corruption (conduct not specified) (48 examples); police accepting bribes/gifts (no context given) (41 examples); police involvement with drugs (34 examples); Greiner/Metherell (conduct not specified) (34 examples); politicians (conduct not specified) (25 examples); police taking bribes to turn a blind eye (20 examples); politicians misappropriating funds (15 examples); police dishonesty (suppressing information/cover ups) (15 examples); police involvement in other criminal offences (15 examples); people misappropriating funds (14 examples); Greiner/Metherell involved in favouritism in employment (13 examples); and politicians accepting bribes/gifts (10 examples).**

<sup>12</sup> Responses to questions 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 are based on the 371 respondents who had heard of the ICAC and hence who were asked these questions.



Q10a. What does the ICAC do about those corrupt activities?

Q10b. What else does the ICAC do about corrupt activities in the NSW public sector?

Investigates	47.4
Corruption prevention/changes systems or policies/tries to prevent	5.9
Educates (the general community and/or public sector)	0.0
Recommends prosecutions	15.9
Prepares a report	15.1
Prosecutes/takes to trial	11.9
Exposes corruption to the public	7.3
Passes the information to appropriate authorities	6.5
Holds hearings/inquiry	6.2
Punishes/disciplines/gaols or fines	5.4
Solves the problem	3.0
Receives information/complaints about corruption	1.1
Sets standards for what is or isn't corrupt	0.5
Nothing/wastes money	5.7
Other	10.5
Don't know what ICAC does	18.3

Q 11. Do you think the ICAC has been successful or unsuccessful in *exposing* some of the corruption that has occurred in NSW:

successful?	<input type="checkbox"/>	78.4%
unsuccessful?	<input type="checkbox"/>	9.7%
(not sure/don't know)	<input type="checkbox"/>	11.9%

Q12. Do you think that the ICAC has been successful or unsuccessful in *reducing* the level of the corruption in NSW?:

successful?	<input type="checkbox"/>	43.4%
unsuccessful?	<input type="checkbox"/>	35.8%
don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	20.8%

Q13a. Do you think that having the ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	91.4%
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.8%
(Not sure/don't know)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4.9%

Q13b. Why do you say that? (Probe for any other reasons)

<i>Good thing</i>	
Acts as a watchdog/need something	30.2
Exposes corruption	23.2
It acts as a deterrent	21.3
Stops corruption/Has an effect	15.6
Independent (because it is independent)	10.2
Anything is better than nothing	9.4
Gives people somewhere to go to report corruption	4.9
Reassuring to have the ICAC	1.9
ICAC's power	1.3
You can trust the ICAC	0.5
Puts corruption on the (govt) agenda	0.3
If, ...	6.2
Other	2.7
<i>Not a good thing</i>	
Waste of money	3.2
It hasn't changed anything	3.0
Doesn't follow through	2.2
Effects on innocent people	1.6
Too slow/takes too long	1.3
There should be more convictions	0.8
Other - not a good thing	1.3
<i>Don't know</i>	
Don't know	2.7

Q14. As part of its work the ICAC sometimes holds hearings. Some of these hearings are held in private, others are open to the public. Under what circumstances do you think that hearings should be open to the public?

Always/under all circumstances	43.1
In public if it affects the public	14.8
Mostly in public, except where it raises issues of personal safety	3.8
Mostly in public - other	4.6
In public only when it won't hurt innocent people	8.9
After initial hearings have been held in private	5.4
Should be left to ICAC discretion	2.7
Never/under no circumstances	4.0
Other	5.1
Don't know	7.8

**Q15. Do you believe that the ICAC is more interested in investigating individuals or in reducing the opportunities for corruption?**

Investigating individuals	31.0
Reducing opportunities for corruption	40.4
Both	7.0
Other	2.7
Not sure/don't know	19.1

**Q16. The ICAC has been in the public eye quite a bit. Can you tell me what the stories have been about? (Probe, any others?)**

Can't remember	46.9
Metherell/Greiner matter	28.0
Police corruption (no further details)	11.3
Cover up of sexual harassment by Terry Griffiths	7.5
The New Commissioner	6.2
The relationship between police and criminals (incl. Neddy Smith - (Milloo))	5.4
Temby leaving	4.9
Temby representing the police/Lauer	3.0
North coast land deals	2.4
Police - other	2.2
Viability of ICAC	1.3
Establishment of Royal Commission into Police Corruption	1.1
RTA and land sales	1.1
Randwick	1.1
The release of confidential government information - (Tamba)	0.8
Tow truck investigation	0.8
Police protection of paedophiles (Carbon)	0.3
Walsh Bay	0.3
Corruption issues outside NSW	3.8
Other (Specify)	5.1

**Q17a. The ICAC has worked on many different issues. Are you aware of any work the ICAC has done about public servants giving out or selling confidential information about members of the public?**

Yes ☐ 24.5%

No/Can't remember ☐ 75.5%

**b. (If yes) What did the ICAC do about this?**

Accurate description 4.0%

Inaccurate description 0.3%

Unclear description 6.7%

Can't remember 13.5%

**c. And what else happened?**

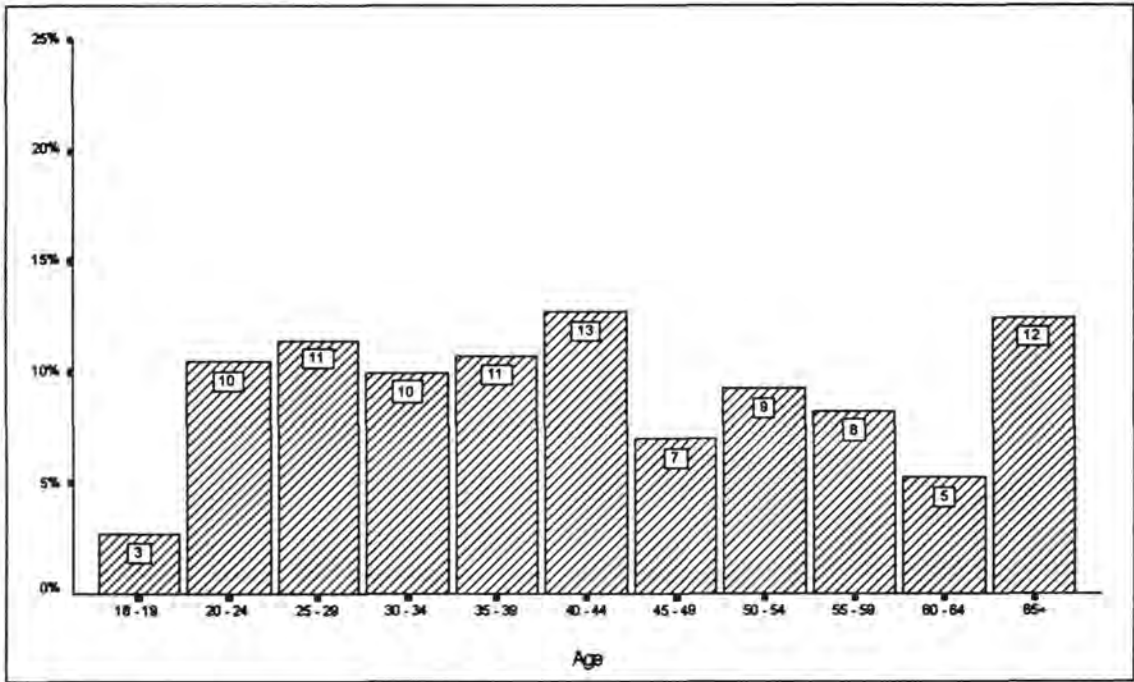
Action relating to individuals	4.6%
Action relating to systems	1.6%
Action relating to individuals & systems	0.5%
Irrelevant information	1.1%
Can't remember	16.7%

Finish with demographic questions about gender; age (18-19; 20-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50-54; 55-59; 60-64; 65+ years); residence (collect at postcode level but group into Sydney; other NSW); employment status; if employed whether employed in NSW public sector or other; and whether any other household member work in NSW public sector.

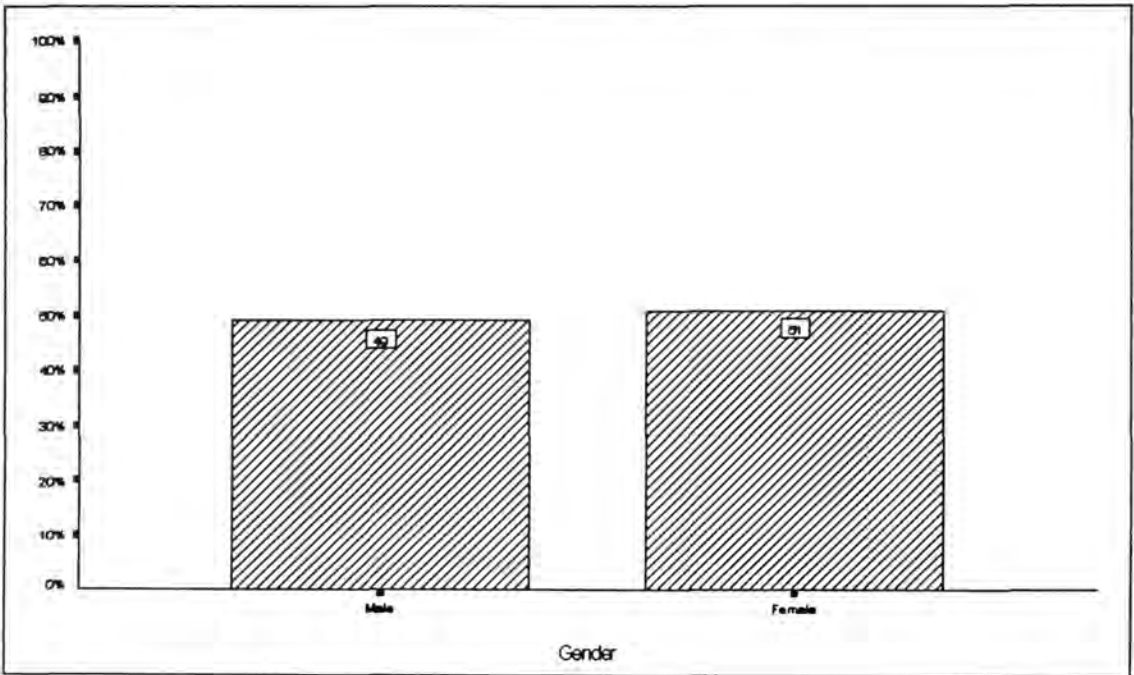
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND YOUR CO-OPERATION**

**APPENDIX 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS**

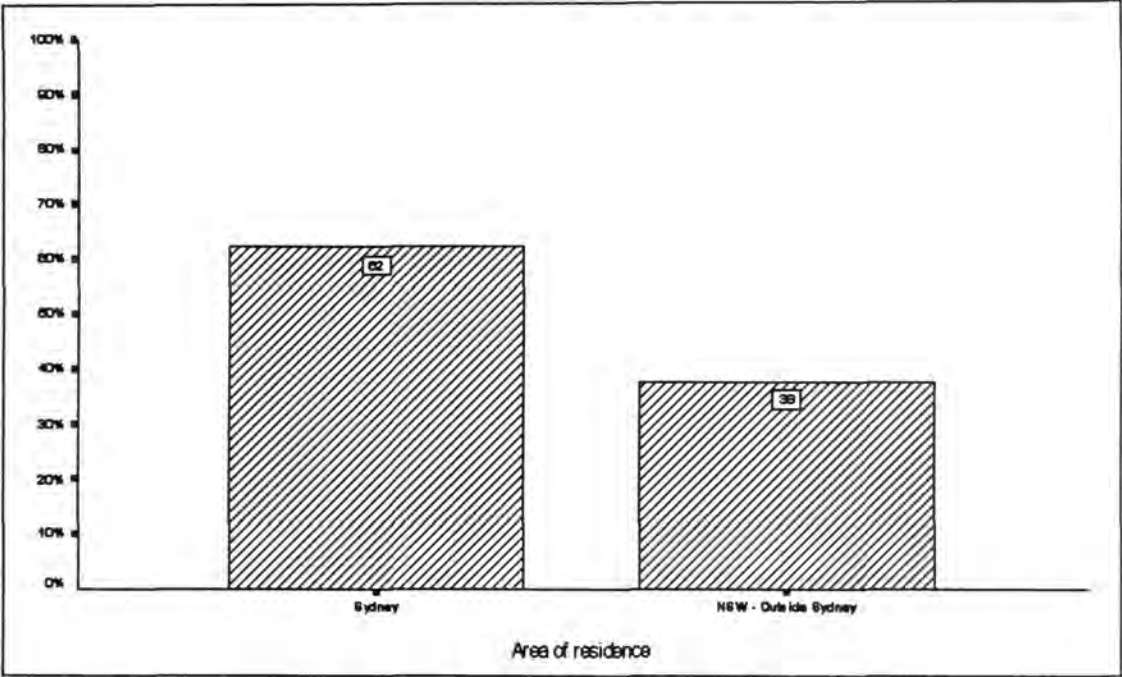
**Figure 1: Distribution of respondents by age**



**Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by gender**



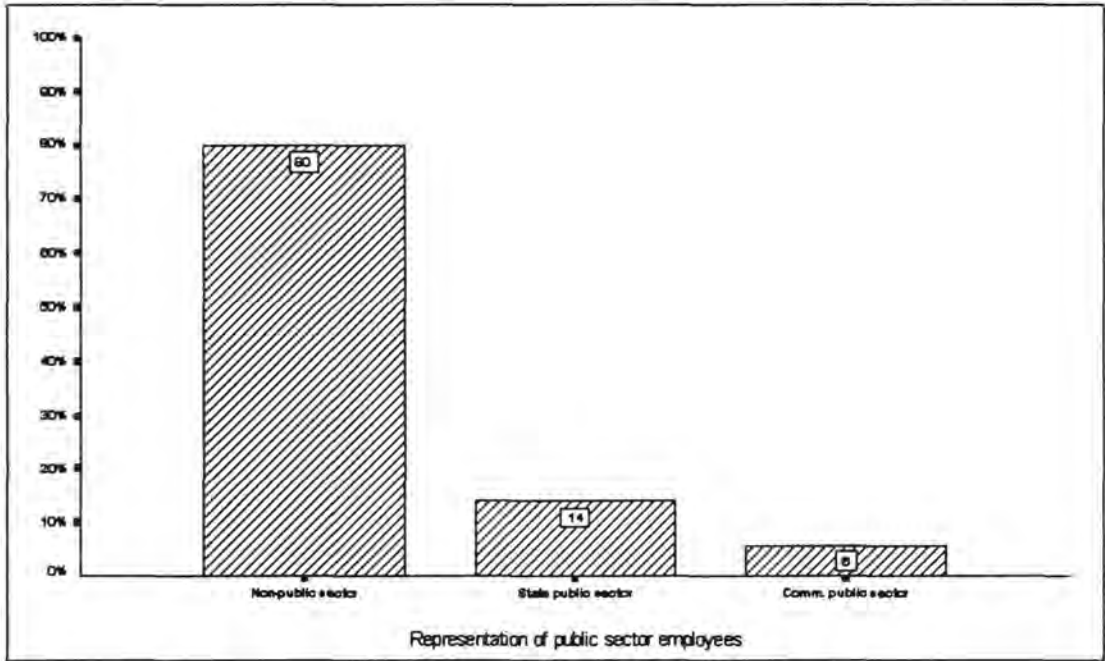
**Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by area of residence**



**Figure 4: Distribution of respondents by type of employment**



**Figure 5: Distribution of respondents by sector of employment**



**APPENDIX 3:**  
**TABLES COMPARING IMAGES OF PUBLIC SECTOR CORRUPTION IN NSW**  
**AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE TYPES OF CORRUPTION THE ICAC DEALS WITH**

**Table A: *Percentage of respondents who gave an example of corruption which included the following perpetrators***

Perpetrators	Image of public sector corruption	Corruption seen to be dealt with by ICAC
Perpetrator not stated/"people"	64%	32%
Police	52%	71%
Politicians/MPs	22%	31%
Greiner/Metherell	-	18%
Public sector/government agencies	18%	12%
Local councils	11%	8%
Public officials	9%	7%
Legal system/judges	3%	4%
Industry/private companies	2%	5%
Workers/the workforce	-	4%
Other	1%	10%



**Table B: Percentage of respondents who gave the following types of conduct as an example of corruption**

Type of conduct	Image of public sector corruption	Corruption seen to be dealt with by ICAC
Conduct not stated/"corruption"	17%	49%
Bribery/gifts (no context)	24%	26%
Bribes - tendering/contracting	1	3
Bribes - land rezoning/devpmt applns	4	2
Bribes - turn a blind eye/fix fines	14	7
Bribes - driving tests	2	1
Bribes - other contexts	3	2
Doing favours for money	5%	1%
Favouritism/partiality (no context)	6%	1%
Favouritism - tendering/contracting	1	3
Favouritism - land rezoning/devpmt applns	3	4
Favouritism - employment	6	8
Favouritism - other contexts	7	1
Drugs - (growing/taking/dealing/stealing)	13%	15%
Feathering own nest	18%	4%
Misappropriating funds/embezzlement	8%	15%
Misuse of position/power	9%	3%
Dishonesty/suppressing info/cover ups	9%	8%
Misuse - resources/time	4%	1%
Selling/misusing information	4%	5%
Other problems - land rezoning/devpmt applns	3%	5%
Other problems - tendering/contracting	1%	4%
Fraud/white collar crime/tax rorts	3%	4%
Organised crime/major corruption	1%	4%
Inappropriate relations	1	1%
Sexual harassment	-	3%
Bending rules	2%	3%
Conflict of interest	-	1%
Prostitution	-	1%
Other - general	10%	3%
Other - criminal	1	11
Other - made no sense	3	3