
COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TO CORRUPTION AND THE ICAC 1993

Public Attitude Survey

March 1994

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SUMMARY

In order to obtain information about the public's perceptions of corruption, their understanding of the work of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and about their level of support for that work, in November 1993 a survey was conducted of a random sample of the NSW adult population. This Report documents the responses to the questions asked of this sample of 502. Selected findings are presented below.

Community Attitudes To Corruption

55% considered corruption in the NSW public sector to be a serious problem; 37% considered it to be a *minor problem* and only 4% considered that corruption in the NSW public sector was *not a problem*.

When asked about the effects of corruption, members of the public spontaneously described both intangible consequences (e.g., disillusionment and loss of respect for authorities) and tangible consequences of corruption on the community (e.g., financial costs).

84% disagreed or strongly disagreed that *Most corruption is too trivial to be worth reporting*.

68% disagreed or strongly disagreed that *There is no point in reporting corruption in the NSW public sector because nothing useful will be done about it*.

Awareness of the ICAC

Without any prompting 42% were able to name the Commission (using its full or one of its abbreviated names). Following prompting, only 5% said that they had not heard of the ICAC.

Opinion About The ICAC

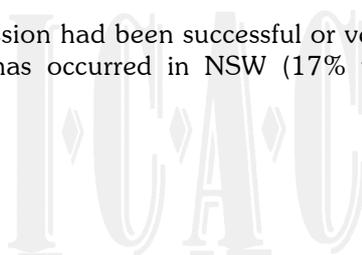
92% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement *Having the ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW* (4% were unable to offer an opinion).

90% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement *The ICAC has increased public awareness about corruption in the NSW public sector* (3% were unable to offer an opinion).

82% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement *The ICAC's helping to make the NSW public sector more accountable* (8% were unable to offer an opinion).

80% considered that the Commission had been successful or very successful in exposing some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW (11% were unable to offer an opinion).

53% considered that the Commission had been successful or very successful in *reducing some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW* (17% were unable to offer an opinion).



INTRODUCTION

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) was established in March 1989 to expose and minimise corruption in the NSW public sector. The ICAC's Corporate Plan 1993-1995 describes the importance, for all areas of the ICAC, of the general public's beliefs and attitudes about corruption and about the ICAC:

The values and perceptions held by the public about corruption and the role and effectiveness of the Commission will significantly affect the way they interact with the Commission. (p.4).

Objective 2 of the Corporate Plan is "Facilitating public understanding", about which it is written:

Public support is an important element in the Commission's work against corruption, and the Commission must therefore ensure that the public is kept informed about its work and about corruption as an issue. It is equally important that the public understands the charter and functions of the Commission so as to ensure that the expectations that we are trying to meet are realistic (p.8).

In order to obtain information on the public's perceptions of corruption, their understanding of the work of the ICAC and on their level of support for that work, the Commission engaged the Roy Morgan Research Centre (RMRC) to conduct a survey. The interview schedule was designed by the ICAC Research Unit¹. (Refer to Appendix 1 for a copy of the questions asked.)

Between 12 and 21 November 1993, 502 telephone interviews were conducted with a representative sample of the NSW adult (aged 18 years and over) population. The survey was administered as a separate, stand alone (rather than as part of a larger, omnibus) survey. This is the first in a new series of community attitude surveys to be conducted on behalf of the ICAC. For a profile of who responded to the survey, please refer to Appendix 2.

The results of this survey are presented in the following sections:

- 1 Attitudes to corruption in the NSW public sector,
- 2 Beliefs about the effects that corruption in the public sector has on the community;
- 3 Awareness of the existence of the ICAC;
- 4 Awareness of the functions of the ICAC;
- 5 Suggestions for changes which they think should be made to the ICAC;
- 6 Perceived success of the ICAC; and
- 7 Access to information about the ICAC.

¹ The survey was designed by Dr Angela Gorta (Research Manager) and Suzie Forell (Research Officer), and this report written with the assistance of Emma Wallhead (Research Assistant)

1 ATTITUDES TO CORRUPTION IN THE NSW PUBLIC SECTOR

The NSW general public appear to recognise corruption in the NSW public sector as a problem. More than half of the respondents considered that *for taxpayers, corruption in the NSW public sector is a serious problem* (55%), others considered it to be a *minor problem* (37%). Very few considered corruption *not to be a problem* (4%). A further 4% had no opinion.

A list of attitude statements about corruption and about reporting corruption were read to respondents (refer to Appendix 1, Q3A-Q3G for a list of the statements and to Appendix 3 for detailed responses). These statements were a subset of those asked in a survey of public sector employees' views of corruption undertaken by the ICAC Research Unit. They were included here to allow comparison between general community attitudes and those of public sector employees. Respondents in both studies were asked whether they strongly disagreed, disagreed, agreed, or strongly agreed with each of the statements. While there were differences in

- the method of data collection (a self-completion questionnaire for public sector employees and a telephone interview for members of the general public);
- the time the surveys were administered (May-August 1993 for public sector employees and November 1993 for members of the general public); and
- the agency seen as administering the survey (the ICAC in the former and the ICAC through RMRC in the latter);

there is little reason to think that meaningful comparisons cannot be made.

Attitudes About Defining Corruption

Table 1 Comparison of Community and Public Sector Employee Attitudes About Defining Corruption

Attitude Statement	% who disagree or strongly disagree	
	Community sample (n=502)	Public Sector sample (n=1313)
"Conduct must be illegal for it to be called corrupt".	58%	71%
"If something is done for the right reasons, it cannot be called corrupt."	58%	73%
"You can't call something corrupt if everyone does it."	89%	92%

Three of these attitude statements concerned defining corruption. For each of these items, those who disagreed or strongly disagreed were acknowledging a broader definition of what could be called corrupt. From Table 1 it can be seen that public sector employees tend to define corruption more broadly than do members of the general community.

Responses of the community sample were examined to determine differences in attitudes between those from different demographic subgroups. It was found that those aged between 25 and 59 years (63 %) were more likely to disagree with the statement that *Conduct must be illegal for it to be called corrupt* than either those younger than

this (52%) or older (35%). There were no other statistically significant differences between demographic subgroups on any of these three items.

Attitudes About Reporting Corruption

Three of the statements concerned attitudes to reporting corruption. For each of these items, those who disagreed or strongly disagreed were acknowledging the value in reporting corruption. From Table 2 it can be seen that the patterns of responses in the two samples were similar: the majority of both groups disagreed about there being *no point in reporting corruption in the NSW public sector because nothing useful will be done about it* and that *Most corruption is too trivial to be worth reporting* and the majority of both groups agreed that *People who report corruption are likely to suffer for it*. It is interesting to note that in terms of the first two statements in the table public sector employees were more likely to disagree than members of the community. In contrast, public sector employees were more likely to agree with the item that *Most corruption is too trivial to be worth reporting* than were members of the community. One possible interpretation might be that public sector employees are more likely to come across a broader range of examples of behaviour labelled as "corrupt" in their workplace in addition to any examples that they and other members of the community might learn about in the media.

Table 2 Comparison of Community and Public Sector Employee Attitudes About Reporting Corruption

Attitude Statement	% who disagree or strongly disagree	
	Community sample (n=502)	Public Sector sample (n=1313)
"There is no point in reporting corruption in the NSW public sector because nothing useful will be done about it."	68%	74%
"People who report corruption are likely to suffer for it."	21%	26%
"Most corruption is too trivial to be worth reporting."	84%	74%

In relation to the attitude differences found between demographic subgroups in the community sample, women (88%) were more likely than men (76%) to disagree with the statement that *Most corruption is too trivial to be worth reporting*.

Those from country NSW or Wollongong (both 24%) were more likely than either those from Sydney (17%) or those from Newcastle (18%) to disagree with the statement that *People who report corruption are likely to suffer for it*. There were no other statistically significant differences between different demographic groups in the community sample for any of those items concerning willingness to report corruption.

Attitudes About What Is Acceptable

The remaining item concerned attitudes to what is acceptable behaviour. It is interesting to note that a larger proportion of public sector employees (90%) than members of the general public (81%) disagreed with the statement *The NSW Government can afford to sustain minor theft without worrying about it*.

Knowing Where to Report Corruption

Following the attitude statements, respondents were asked *Would you know where to go to report corruption in the NSW public sector?* Fifty-seven per cent said "no", and 43% said "yes". In terms of the demographic characteristics which we measured as part of this survey, the subgroups most likely to say that they would *not know where to go to report corruption were:*

- women (62%) rather than men (54%);
- those aged between 18 and 24 years (67%) and those aged 60 years or over (68%) rather than those aged between 25 and 59 years (54%);
- those living outside Sydney (65%) rather than those living in Sydney (51%);
- those whose highest educational qualification was the Higher School Certificate or less (63%) rather than those with some post-secondary education (49%);
- those with incomes of less than \$20,000 (65%), those with incomes of between \$50,001 and \$60,000 (67%) and those who refused to state their income (62%) rather than those with incomes between \$20,001 and \$50,000 (51%) and those with incomes of more than \$60,000 (44%).

There was no statistically significant relationship between the belief that one knows where to go to report corruption and employment status, whether or not the respondent was Australian-born or whether someone in household works in the NSW public sector.

This question was adapted from the public sector employees study, the original wording being I would not know where to go to report corruption. Public sector employees were asked whether they strongly disagreed, disagreed, agreed, or strongly agreed with the statement as above².

In the public sector employees study 28% agreed or strongly agreed that they would not know where to go to report corruption, while 72% indicated that they would know where to go to report. Hence, as one might expect, NSW public servants expressed more certainty about knowing where to go to report corruption than did members of the general public.

² It should be noted that in both studies, the question concerned the respondent's belief that he or she would know where to report corruption. For those who considered that they would know where to report corruption, no attempt was made to check the validity of their beliefs.

2 BELIEFS ABOUT THE EFFECTS (IF ANY THAT CORRUPTION IN THE PUBUC SECTOR HAS ON THE COMMUNITY

The rationale for attempting to assess public opinions about the consequences of corruption was to both increase understanding of community attitudes to corruption and to collect some information to feed into the "Corruption costs" theme which was adopted by the Education Unit in 1993 to emphasise the personal, social and economic costs of corruption. When trying to obtain information on the public's understanding of the consequences of corruption, unlike previous surveys conducted for the ICAC, "open-ended" questions which do not lead the respondent in any way were used. Respondents were asked:

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?

Nine out of every ten respondents (89%) thought that corruption in the NSW public sector does have effects on the community. Only 7% thought that it did not have effects on the community and 4% were unsure as to whether or not it has any effects.

Women (92%) were more likely to think that corruption has an effect on the community than were men (86%). Those in the 40 to 59 years age group (93%) were more likely to think it has an effect than either those who were younger (88%) or those who were older than this (84%). Neither whether or not Australian-born nor residential area were found to be (statistically) significantly related to beliefs about whether corruption had an effect on the community.

The Nature of the Effects

More than three-quarters of the respondents (78%) were able to describe what they understood to be the consequences of corruption.

One would not expect a considered assessment of the range of corruption issues from respondents to a telephone interview. It is more likely that one is getting "top of the head" responses from those who were not, prior to the telephone survey, thinking about the topic of corruption. Hence the range of consequences which respondents were able to verbalise in this interview situation provides an encouraging picture of community understanding of corruption.

More than one-third of the respondents (36%) stated that they felt that corruption in the public sector caused a loss of confidence / disillusionment/ cynicism / feelings of helplessness. Some talked about these feelings in general (17%), whereas others specified that corruption causes a loss of respect, trust, or confidence:

- in politicians or government (9%),
- in the police service (5%),
- in public service departments or public servants (4%), or
- in authority, more generally (4%).

Some examples of these comments include:

Makes everyone feel despondent.

Lose faith in whole system

Mistrust and cynicism of public sector establishments.

Demoralisation in the community through apathy, I'm all right Jack

Demoralises society.

We can't believe that we are looked after properly by the police or politicians.

Lowering of our respect for politicians.

Makes the government look bad, disillusionment of public.

You find lack of confidence in local governments and police forces. A lot of people are disillusioned with the way things are.

Bad morale in community.

Loss of confidence in those in administration.

Lose faith in politicians. Can't depend on them

While a substantial proportion (24%) mentioned the financial costs of corruption, it is interesting to note that fewer respondents mentioned such costs than mentioned "disillusionment". The types of financial consequences which were mentioned included:

- costs/financial consequences, where their nature was unspecified (12%),
- money being wasted/diversion of funds (6%),
- need to pay higher taxes to make up for losses through corruption (3%),
- money spent holding inquiries/investigations is lost to the community (1%).

Some examples of these comments include:

Why the public sector makes a corrupt mistake the ordinary person ends up paying for it.

The public misses out by money being wasted.

Costs more to run state.

Higher taxes to make up for losses through corruption.

Rates are too high due to council inefficiencies and corruption.

It affects our pockets - I can't say for sure how but I'm sure we pay for it in the long run.

Costs money of the community. Money spent combating is lost to the community.

Moneywise - the taxpayers pay for all the problems.

Costs us more money through dodgy use of public funds.

We end up paying for the court costs whereas those funds could be used on the community.

The next most common category of effects of corruption which were mentioned was that corruption in the public sector sets a bad example and encourages the community to be corrupt, for example:

The public at large becomes more corrupt due to the bad example of the public sector .

Perhaps it makes people think that they might as well be corrupt too.

The example which is meant to be set by public sector people becomes degraded.

The bad example of people in public life leads to corrupt actions at all levels of our community.

Everyone thinks they can be corrupt if they see it in the public sector.

People get blase and come to expel it, then people say others are doing it; I'll do it too, bad example to set.

Table 3 summarises the types of effects of corruption reported by respondents.

Table 3 What Effects Does Corruption Have on the Community?

Effects of corruption reported by respondents	%* (n=502)
Disillusionment/loss of faith/trust/respect	36%
Financial costs	24%
Sets a bad example/encourages community to be corrupt	9%
Not getting best person for the job/tenders not going to best company/stifles competition	5%
Creates inequities/advantaging people of influence	3%
Causes inefficiencies	2%
Truth being concealed/information not being released or biased	2%
Quality of service is lessened	1%
Don't know what are the effects of corruption	14%
Corruption does not have an effect on the community	12%

* Percentages may sum to more than 100%, as respondents were each able to nominate more than one effect of corruption .

These percentages represent the proportions of the sample who nominated these effects as an answer to the open-ended question: *What effects does corruption have on the community?* 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 AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE ICAC

Four out of every ten respondents (42%) were able to provide the full name or an abbreviation by which the Commission is known when asked: *The Government has set up a body to look into corruption in Government organisations in NSW. Can you tell me what it is called?* Almost half (47%) were not able to give a name and a further 12% supplied an incorrect name.

In terms of the demographic characteristics which we measured as part of this survey, the subgroups most likely to be able to correctly name the Commission were:

- men (50%) rather than women (33%);
- those living in Sydney (49%) or Wollongong (47%) rather than those living in Newcastle (23%) or country NSW (35%);
- those aged 39 years or less (47%) rather than those who are older (38%);
- those with some post-secondary education (55%) rather than those whose highest level of education is the Higher School Certificate or less (35%);
- those with incomes of more than \$30,000 (58%) rather than those with incomes of \$30,000 or less (36%);
- those who are employed (48%) rather than those who are not employed (32%).

When prompted, very few (5%) said that they had not heard of the Independent Commission Against Corruption or ICAC (pronounced either I.C.A.C. or Icac).

When compared with previous surveys, results show an increased awareness of the ICAC. In March 1989, the month the ICAC was established, only 3% of respondents were able to correctly name the ICAC. This percentage has increased over the length of time the ICAC has been established, with the percentage being able to correctly name the ICAC doubling in the three and half years since May 1990.

Table 4 Comparison of the Ability to Identify the ICAC as the Body Set Up by the Government to Look Into Corruption Over Time

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



4 AWARENESS OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ICAC

The ICAC has three main statutory functions:

- I *investigation* - investigating and reporting on matters with the view to exposing and deterring corrupt conduct and to having it prosecuted where appropriate;
- II *corruption prevention* - reducing opportunities for corruption by advising and working with the public sector on improvements to procedures and work systems;
- III *education* - educating the public and the public sector about the detrimental effects of corruption and the benefits which flow from action to reduce corruption.

The Commission does not have a prosecution role. (Refer to the ICAC Corporate Plan 1993-1995, p. 1 .)

Before asking respondents what they thought the Commission should or should not be doing, it was considered important to ascertain what people actually thought the ICAC does. It may be that the ICAC is doing what they want it to do, but that they do not realise that this is the case. Those respondents who stated that they had heard of the ICAC were asked directly, what they thought the Commission did. The question was open ended, and they were probed for any further responses. In addition, anyone who only mentioned an investigation or prosecution role, was also asked *Well apart from investigation or prosecution, what else does ICAC do?*

As can be seen from Table 5, approximately one-quarter of the respondents said that they were not aware of any of the functions of the ICAC. In terms of the statutory functions, the investigatory function (56.3 %) was recalled by a much larger proportion of the sample than either the corruption prevention (1.2%) or education (A.5%) functions. In specifying the functions, some respondents provided more detail than others. For example, with regard to investigation, a number of respondents qualified this, by saying they thought the ICAC investigates corruption:

- in the public sector (8%),
- in government/politicians (7%),
- as an independent body (5%),
- in police (4%),
- in government departments (4%),
- in state government (2%).

Some of the responses indicated misconceptions about what the ICAC does, for example:

- investigates/finds evidence of crimes (3%),
- charges/prosecutes corrupt people (3%),
- investigates corruption in the private sector (1%).

As can be seen from Table 5, the receipt of complaints and preparation of guidelines were also recognised as functions of the Commission.

Table 5 What does the ICAC do?

Function reported by respondents	%* (n=502)
Don't know	25%
Not aware of ICAC	5%
Mentions statutory functions	
Investigates	56%
Prevents corruption	1%
Educates	1
Mentions other Commission functions	
Takes complaints/investigates complaints	5%
Tries to get to the bottom of/stamp out corruption	4%
Recommends charges/prosecution/cannot convict	3%
Publishes reports/guidelines	2%
Holds inquiries	2%
Misconceptions	
Investigates crime	3%
Charges/prosecutes corrupt people	3%
Investigates corruption in private sector	1%
Other	7%
Cynicism	
Not much/wastes money/etc	3%

* Percentages may sum to more than 100%, as respondents were each able to nominate more than one effect of corruption.

These percentages represent the proportions of the sample who nominated these functions as an answer to the open-ended question: What does the ICAC do? The percentages associated with each of these functions may well have been higher if the respondents had been specifically asked whether they considered each of these to be functions of the ICAC.

When examining community awareness of the ICAC's statutory functions over time, it becomes apparent that awareness of the corruption prevention and education functions remains low (refer to Table 6). In contrast, awareness of the Commission's investigatory function has almost doubled over the previous year: In the 1993 survey, a smaller percentage of respondents than in earlier surveys said that they did not know what the functions of the ICAC were.

Table 6 Comparison of Knowledge of ICAC Functions Over Time

ICAC functions	Dec 1990 (351) %	Jun 1991 (354) %	Dec 1991 (357) %	Jul 1992 (352) %	Oct 1992 (352) %	Nov 1993 (502) %
Investigation	28	22	20	28	30	56
Corruption Prevention	1	-	2	2	2	1
Education	-	-	-	-	-	1
Don't know	40	56	51	27	33	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.



5 SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES (IF ANY) WHICH THEY THINK SHOULD BE MADE TO THE ICAC

In order to provide an avenue of both determining misconceptions about the ICAC which can be redressed through public education and also a means of determining areas of dissatisfaction without actually suggesting problems to the respondent, respondents were asked:

Are there any additional things which the ICAC should do, which you think it doesn't do now?

Are there any things which the ICAO does, which you think it should not do?

Are there any changes which you think should be made to the ICAC?

The percentage of respondents who proposed changes are presented in Table 7. From this table it can be seen that more than half of the respondents could not offer an opinion about the need for change.

Table 7 Percentage of Respondents who Proposed Changes to the ICAC

Proposed Changes	Yes	No	Can't say
There are additional things it should do	19%	27%	54%
There are some things it does which it should not do	11%	36%	53%
There are changes which should be made	20%	21%	59%

In terms of the demographic characteristics measured as part of this survey, the subgroups most likely to suggest that there were changes which should be made to the ICAC were:

- men (27%) rather than women (13%);
- those aged between 25 and 59 years (23%) rather than those either under 25 (12%) or 60 years or over (16%);
- those from Sydney (26%) rather than those from outside the metropolitan Sydney area (14%);
- those with a degree as their highest educational qualification (41%) rather than those with less qualifications (17%);
- those employed (24%) rather than those unemployed (13%);
- those whose income is greater than \$30,000 (34%) rather than those with incomes of \$30,000 or less (14%).

The types of suggestions for change were very diverse, with very few respondents nominating any one suggestion. Some of the comments made illustrated the extent of misconceptions about the functions of the ICAC held by some respondents (e. g., "I think that they shouldn't be able to overrule the courts. They commit people the way judges are able to and I think that that is overstepping the mark.")

The additional things which respondents suggested that the ICAC should be doing ranged from increasing the emphasis on education to being given the power to prosecute. Some examples which demonstrate this range include:

They should let more people know exactly what corruption is and let the public in on more about the ICAC. Should be taught in schools what and where to look for corruption and where to report it

Perhaps it should be a national body.

Should have bigger penalties for corruption.

Should concentrate on police a bit more.

Not just looking in to it but carry on further and find solutions.

They should focus upon all sectors.

Should have more powers to proceed further than making a decision - the power to prosecute.

The range of things that respondents said that the ICAC should not be doing included:

The naming of people before the completion of investigation

It should not target individuals.

There are too many big investigations that are high profile and must cost a huge amount of money, when I think there are probably a lot of smaller, but just as important, cases that need

to be investigated at much less cost.

I disagree with the use of high cost barristers.

I don't think that they should have public hearings.

Some other suggestions for change included:

I'd like to see people be more accountable for the accusations they make at the ICAC - they shouldn't be immune from prosecution themselves.

A media bar on proceedings until the point where legal measures are recommended.

It should be totally independent at all times.

More public definition of its terms of reference.

Should get better support from government

Make it so that their recommendations are actually carried through

Just be vigilant.

The implications of the full list of suggestions made are being considered by the Commission.

6 SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IF ANY WHICH THEY THINK SHOULD BE MADE TO THE ICAC

Rather than letting people evaluate the Commission in terms of what they think it should be doing, respondents were asked the extent to which they think the Commission is successful in achieving its mission, i.e., how successful it is in exposing and minimising corruption.

	VS	S	U	VU	DK
How successful do you think that the ICAC has been in exposing some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW:	13%	67%	8%	1%	11%
How successful do you think that the ICAC has been in reducing some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW:	4%	49%	23%	7%	17%

VS = very successful; S = successful; U = unsuccessful; VU = very unsuccessful; DK = don't know

When the "very successful" and "successful" responses are combined it can be seen that 80% of the respondents considered that the ICAC has been successful in exposing some of the corruption and 53% considered it has been successful in reducing some of the corruption in NSW

More women (84%) than men (77%) felt that the ICAC had been successful in exposing some of the corruption in NSW. However, fewer women (48%) indicated that they thought that the ICAC has been successful in reducing some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW than men (58%). More women (21%) than men (13%) were unable to say whether they thought the ICAC has been successful in reducing some of the corruption or not.

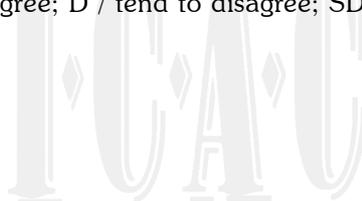
Those respondents born in Australia (56%) were more likely to think that the ICAC has been successful in reducing some of the corruption which has occurred in NSW than those born outside Australia (44%).

While it is not known what led to the responses of those who said that they "don't know", it is interesting to note that in the pilot testing of the interview schedule, some people made the astute observation that they could not answer the question of whether the ICAC had been successful in reducing some of the corruption because they had no baseline information: they did not know how much corruption existed prior to the establishment of the ICAC..

In order to further explore opinion about the ICAC, respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with three additional statements. These statements and the associated responses are presented below.

	SA	A	D	SD	DK
Having the ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW.	54%	38%	2%	1%	4%
The ICAC has increased public awareness about corruption in the NSW public sector.	57%	33%	6%	2%	3%
The ICAC is helping to make the NSW public sector more accountable.	34%	48%	8%	1%	8%

SA / strongly agree; A / tend to agree; D / tend to disagree; SD / strongly disagree; DK / don't know



When the "strongly agree" and "agree" responses are combined it can be seen that 92% of the respondents considered that having the *ICAC is a good thing for the people of NSW*, that 90% of the respondents considered that the *ICAC has increased public awareness about corruption in the NSW public sector* and that 82% of the respondents thought that the *ICAC is helping to make the NSW public sector more accountable*.

Women (86%) were more likely than men (79%) to agree with the statement that *the ICAC is helping to make the NSW public sector more accountable*. There was no statistically significant relationship between the belief that *the ICAC is helping to make the NSW public sector more accountable* and any of the other demographic characteristics which we measured as part of this survey.



7 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE ICAC

When asked, *Have you read, seen or heard any information about the ICAC?*, 81% replied that they had.

The most frequently recalled sources of information were:

Newspaper reports	79%
T.V. reports	78%
Radio reports	40%
Other	5%
(can't say)	2 %

In terms of the demographic characteristics which we measured as part of this survey, the subgroups most likely to have read, seen, or heard information about the ICAC were:

- those living in Sydney (85%) or country NSW (82%) rather than those living in Newcastle (72%) or Wollongong (71%);
- those with a degree, diploma(CAE) or part of these(91%)rather than those with a qualification from TAFE or less qualifications (77%);
- those with an income greater than \$40,000 (92%) rather than those with an income of \$40,000 or less (80%);
- men (85%) rather than women (76%);
- those born in Australia (83%) rather than those born outside Australia (72%);
- those in the public sector (88%) rather than those who are either in the private sector (79%) or self employed (81%).

When asked, *Well apart from media reports, where have you read, seen or heard about the ICAC? Anywhere else?*, the most common additional sources of information were:

Work	2.0%
In conversation	1.4%
Brochures/guidelines	1.3%
School/uni/library	1.0%
Train stations	0.8%
Personal contact with ICAC or ICAC staff	0.7%
ICAC stands/shows/displays	0.6%
Other	2.9%
Don't know	5.0%

In June 1993, the ICAC conducted an outdoor poster advertising campaign to introduce the "Corruption Costs" theme to metropolitan Sydney audiences. The campaign involved 120 posters being displayed on billboards at railway stations and major intersections. The reference to "train stations" in the list above, refers to respondents recalling seeing one of these posters.



Some Observations

Based upon the results of this survey, a number of general observations may be made:

- Nine out of ten members of the public thought that corruption had effects on the community. The public appear to have considered the consequences of corruption and to be aware of the less tangible consequences such as disillusionment and loss of respect for authorities as well as the more tangible consequences such as financial costs.
- Given that more than half of the sample said that they would not know where to report corruption, attention should be paid to informing members of the public of the reporting avenues open to them
- Despite the fact that the ICAC is less than 5 years old, it seems to have achieved a relatively high community profile.
- Since newspaper and television reports are recalled as the most frequent sources of information about the ICAC, and that investigations carried out by the ICAC receive most media coverage, it is not surprising that members of the public are more likely to be aware of the ICAC's investigatory function, rather than any other function. People continue to be largely unaware of the Commission's educative and corruption prevention work
- Members of the public were able to suggest a range of possible changes that they would like to see made to the ICAC. The comments made indicated both areas of dissatisfaction with the Commission as well as some misunderstanding about what the ICAC does and does not do. As such, these comments provide direction for both community education and for reappraisal of the Commission's approach to its work
- The ICAC maintains a high and controversial 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 very positive opinion of the ICAC.



APPENDIX 1 INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Text Not Available on Website.



APPENDIX 2 PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE

PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE

Figure 1

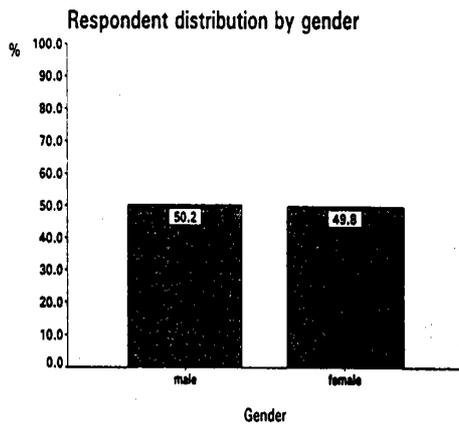


Figure 2

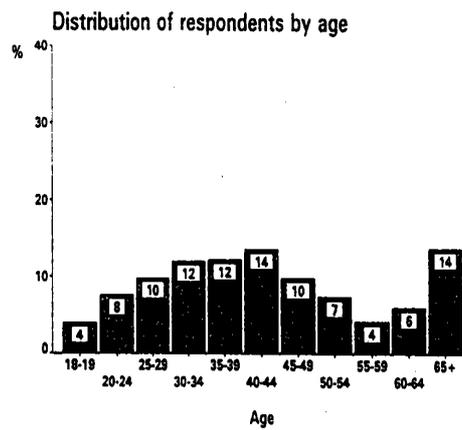


Figure 3

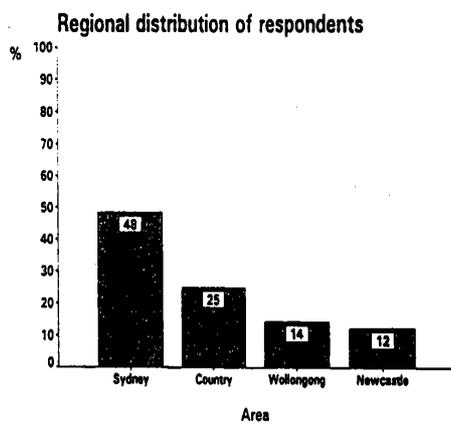


Figure 4

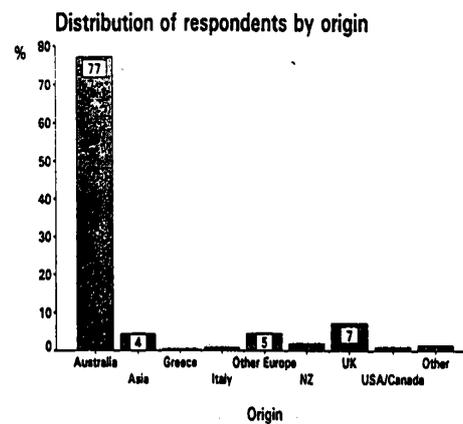


Figure 5

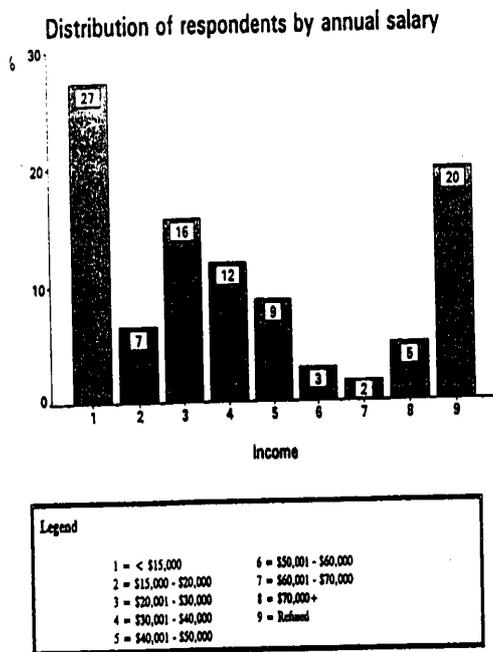


Figure 6

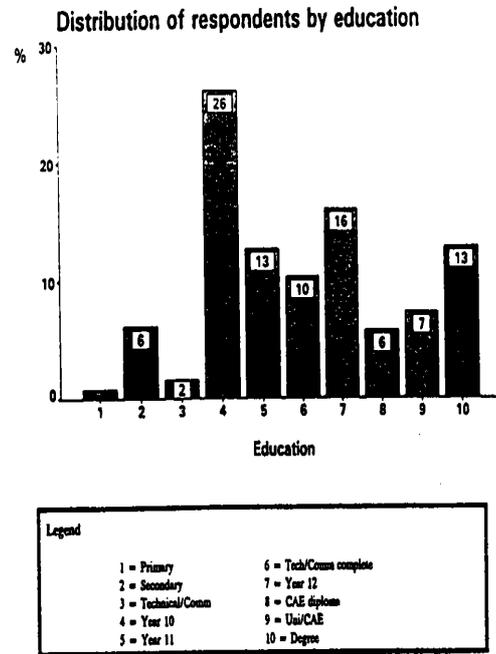


Figure 7

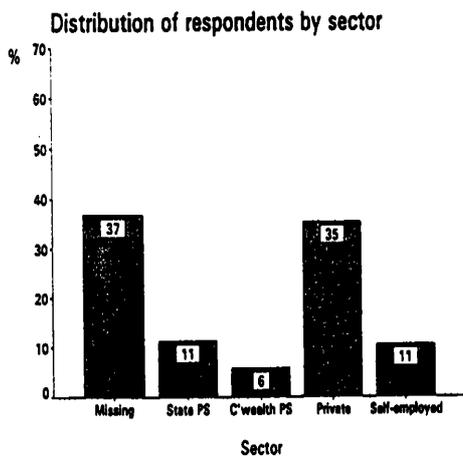
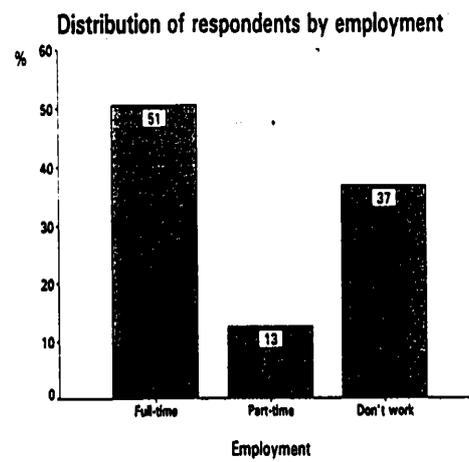


Figure 8



APPENDIX 3 COMPARISON OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SECTOR ATTITUDES

The results of the public sector employees study appear in italics underneath the results of the current public opinion survey.

Statement	S	A	AD	SD⁵
"Conduct <i>must</i> be illegal for it to be called corrupt".	16% 11%	25% 18%	27% 48%	32% 24%
"If something is done <i>for the right reasons</i> , it cannot be called <i>corrupt</i> ."	13% 6%	29% 21%	30% 51%	28% 22%
"The NSW Government <i>can</i> afford to sustain <i>minor theft without</i> worrying about it.	3 % 2%	16% 9%	21% 46%	61% 44%
"You <i>can't</i> call something corrupt if <i>everyone</i> does it	6% 3%	6% 6%	18% 37%	71% 55%
"There is <i>no point</i> in reporting corruption in the NSW public sector because <i>nothing useful will</i> be done about it".	13% 8%	19% 18%	18% 43%	50% 31%
"People who <i>report</i> corruption are likely to suffer for it."	38% 23%	41% 51%	14% 20%	7% 6%
" <i>Most</i> corruption is <i>too trivial</i> to be <i>worth</i> reporting."	4% 3%	12% 24%	27% 54%	57% 20%

⁵SA = strongly agree; A = agree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly disagree

