

Role Overview – Integrity and Ethics Commissioner

Role overview

The Northern Territory Government has recently introduced a landmark reform in the Territory's integrity landscape, that builds a future focused system designed for the unique context to ensure Territorians can be confident their integrity institutions are strong, independent and working together in the public interest.

The Integrity and Ethics Commissioner (the Commissioner) is the Territory's principal integrity officer, concurrently holding the functions of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC), Ombudsman, Information Commissioner and Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner. The Commissioner is supported by the Office of the Integrity and Ethics Commissioner (OIEC), a public sector agency, led by a Chief Executive Officer. The OIEC comprises a workforce of around 50 employees, delivering services to support the Commissioner, including investigative and legal specialists and corporate staff.

The Commissioner is a statutory appointment, with their role and powers established in accordance with the Integrity and Ethics Commissioner Act 2025 (the Act). The primary objective of the Commissioner is to promote integrity and ethics in the administrative practices of public authorities, by ensuring accountability, transparency and public trust across government operations and in resolution of complaints about services. The principal functions of the Commissioner include:

- Preventing, detecting, and investigating improper conduct in the public and health sectors.
- Provide the community with a fair, independent and timely mechanism for the resolution of complaints about the administrative action of government agencies, the conduct of Northern Territory Police Officers and health and community services in both the public and private sectors.
- Assuming the powers and responsibilities of the following integrity bodies:
 - Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC)
 - Ombudsman (including Principal Officer supporting the Judicial Commission in exercise of its functions as prescribed in the *Judicial Commission Act 2020* and as the nominated interim National Preventive Mechanism of the NT for the purposes of the *Optional Protocol Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*).
 - Information Commissioner
 - Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner
- Providing leadership and strategic direction for a unified integrity framework.

Selection criteria

1. Meet the eligibility requirements for appointment as Integrity and Ethics Commissioner pursuant to Part 2, Division 2 of the *Integrity and Ethics Commissioner Act 2025*.
2. A lawyer who has been admitted to practice for a period of not less than 10 years in Australia, either in the Northern Territory or another State/Territory or a former judge of a superior Court.
3. Demonstrated senior experience in complex investigative or legal environments, with a strong track record in conducting high-level investigations into complaints, misconduct, corruption and systemic failures whilst exercising sound judgement and maintaining confidentiality.
4. Demonstrated reputation for unquestioned integrity and the highest standards of personal and professional behaviour, including ethical leadership and decision making, with the ability to inspire purpose and direction, manage risk, and exercise legislative powers in a large, complex, multi-disciplined organisational setting.

5. Comprehensive understanding of the Australian system of government and the context in which the public sector and health sector operates, together with demonstrated political nous and capability to work successfully within these structures.
6. Superior ability to communicate complex concepts clearly and credibly through public reporting, education programs, and stakeholder engagement that builds trust, promotes transparency, and strengthens confidence in the integrity framework.

Further Information:

The applicant must be able to satisfy probity criteria including any of the following: criminal history check, including biometric data for that purpose, police intelligence or integrity check and declare personal interests in relation to matters determined by the panel to be relevant to the applicant's suitability.