



MEDIA RELEASE

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 15 November 2017

INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION BILL 2017

Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA today presented the Committee's report *Inquiry into the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Bill 2017*.

"The Committee has recommended that the Assembly pass this significant piece of legislation with the proposed amendments as set out in the Committee's report." Ms Ah Kit said.

"The Committee found that the Bill largely implements all but two of Commissioner Martin's recommendations from his May 2016 *Anti-Corruption, Integrity and Misconduct Commission Inquiry* report to the Administrator, and provides for an anti-corruption watchdog that is tailored to the unique circumstances of the Northern Territory." Ms Ah Kit said.

"The Committee is grateful to all those who made submissions and raised a number of details regarding the Bill. The Committee was particularly pleased that Commissioners from Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania gave of their time and experience by making submissions and speaking to the Committee. The insights of those already heading similar anti-corruption bodies were extremely helpful.

"The majority of the amendments proposed by the Committee go to ensuring the Bill is unambiguous and drafted in a clear and precise manner," Ms Ah Kit said.

The submissions to the inquiry also raised some important policy questions. Most of these were resolved for the Committee by the Bill following the policies recommended in the Martin report.

"There were, however, a couple of points regarding the rights and liberties of individuals and parliamentary privilege where the Bill went beyond what was required by the Martin Report. Consequently, the Committee has also recommended some changes to more closely align the Bill with Commissioner Martin's recommendations."

"On behalf of the Committee, I would like thank everyone who made a submission or appeared before the Committee. Your input has been invaluable and has highlighted the benefits of opening up the Parliament to the people and increasing participation in the legislative process." Ms Ah Kit said.

END

For Comment Contact: Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA on 8999 6659