



Key findings

Victorian community: Perceptions of corruption

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About this research

In late 2016, IBAC conducted research on perceptions of corruption. Community members were recruited, with quotas applied to ensure the sample included a mix of age groups, genders and locations.

Responses were received from 1236 members of the Victorian community. As this was not a random sample, caution should be exercised before generalising the results to the broader community.

The full report is available on the IBAC website at ibac.vic.gov.au/publications-and-resources.

This was part of a broader research project that also surveyed employees from state and local government, and Victoria Police. These reports are also available on the IBAC website.

Integrity and awareness

- Two-thirds of community respondents (65 per cent) agreed they know *what constitutes corruption*.
- A similar proportion (62 per cent) agreed that *corruption happens in Victoria*, however less than half of community respondents (42 per cent) agreed that *corruption is a problem in Victoria*.

Risks of corruption

- Three behaviours – acceptance of bribes, receiving kickbacks and misuse of confidential information – were identified as corrupt behaviour by a clear majority of community respondents.
- Three-quarters (77 per cent) of community respondents agreed that a *state/local government employee accepting a bribe to award a contract to a supplier* was definitely corrupt.
- Community respondents generally distinguished between corruption and police misconduct in a similar manner to police when they were surveyed.

Reporting corruption

- The vast majority of community respondents identified eight factors that would influence them to report corruption, with the largest proportion saying they would report corruption because they *deserve a public sector that is free of corruption*.
- Three-quarters (75 per cent) of community respondents indicated they would report corruption if they personally observed it.
- The willingness of community respondents to report suspected corruption may be affected by their understanding of what corruption is and how to report.
- Only one in four community respondents agreed they were confident they knew how to report corruption (23 per cent) or where to report it (24 per cent).
- Community respondents were most likely to report serious corruption to IBAC.
- Two out of five (39 per cent) community respondents indicated there were personal costs involved in reporting corruption and 80 per cent were not confident they would be protected from victimisation if they reported corruption.
- Only one in four (25 per cent) felt that *meaningful action would be taken* if they reported corruption.

'Wouldn't know where to start – who to talk to.'

Respondent

'I am not confident that reprisals would not occur against me or my family.'

Respondent

Community attitudes to preventing corruption

- Just over half (56 per cent) of community respondents agreed with the statement *I have a responsibility to prevent corruption*.
- Only one in five (19 per cent) were confident they knew how to prevent corruption. Some comments suggest community respondents are aware they can help prevent corruption by acting with integrity and reporting suspected corrupt conduct.

'We all have a responsibility to protect each other. Also, I follow the old saying: that "Evil flourishes when good people do nothing".'

Respondent

'Unsure how to prevent corruption except to always be ethical myself and lead by example within my group/organisation.'

Respondent

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IBAC is Victoria's anti-corruption agency responsible for preventing and exposing public sector corruption and police misconduct. We do this by:

- investigating serious corruption and police misconduct
- informing the public sector, police and the community about the risks and impacts of corruption and police misconduct, and ways in which it can be prevented.

To report corruption now, visit www.ibac.vic.gov.au or call **1300 735 135**.

If you need help with translation, call Translating and Interpreting Service on **13 14 50** or visit www.ibac.vic.gov.au/general/accessibility/tr

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