

International Anti-Corruption Conference 2018 in Copenhagen

National anti-corruption statement

Australia

1. Preamble: The present state of the fight against corruption in Australia

Every jurisdiction in Australia has institutions, legislation, policies and programs designed to tackle corruption. Australia has a federal constitutional system in which legislative, executive and judicial powers are shared or distributed between the national government, six state governments and two internal self-governing territories.

At the national level Australia takes a multi-agency approach to combating corruption, rather than having in place a single responsible agency. The national anti-corruption framework is made up of different agencies that are responsible for anti-corruption standards and the oversight, detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption, including through international cooperation. The Australian Government has taken several steps over the past few years to strengthen the anti-corruption system at the national level, including through law reforms (such as to our foreign bribery offences and to permit the sharing of personal information between government agencies in order to combat corruption and fraud) and by establishing new or strengthening existing agencies (such as the establishment of the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority). The Government also commissioned an independent Review of Australia's Sports Integrity Arrangements in 2017, and has now established a Sports Integrity Review Taskforce to develop and implement the Government's response to the review.

Australia also invests in strengthening international cooperation around transnational corruption and assisting other countries to fight corruption. Australia is an active participant in international forums such as the OECD Working Group on Bribery, the Financial Action Taskforce, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, the APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group and the Conference of States Parties to the *UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)*.

The main areas of focus to strengthen Australia's national integrity system over the next few years will include: stronger measures to combat corruption in the private sector, expansion of open contracting and greater support for whistle-blowers. Australia has made commitments to tackle these issues under the Open Government National Action Plans 2016-18 and 2018-20, as well as through the commitments Australia made at the London Anti-Corruption Summit in 2016.

2. Statement of anti-corruption commitments

Australia's Second Open Government National Action Plan 2018-2020 (new commitments)	Start and end date	Lead actor
<i>Strengthen the national anti-corruption framework</i> Australia will continue to consider and assess all options for strengthening the national anti-corruption framework in order to fill any current gaps and better communicate that framework.	Sept 2018 – August 2020	Attorney-General's Department

<p><i>Enhance the transparency of political donations and funding</i></p> <p>Australia will investigate options for enhancing the electoral funding and disclosure scheme.</p>	<p>Sept 2018 – August 2020</p>	<p>Department of Finance</p>
<p><i>Expand open contracting and due diligence in procurement</i></p> <p>Australia will publish federal Government procurement data using the Open Contracting Data Standard schema and review existing procurement due diligence processes.</p>	<p>Sept 2018 – August 2020</p>	<p>Department of Finance</p>
<p>Australia's First Open Government National Action Plan 2016-2018 (commitments that are still being implemented)</p>	<p>Start and end date (updated)</p>	<p>Lead actor</p>
<p><i>Improve whistle-blower protections in the tax and corporate sectors</i></p> <p>Australia will strengthen protections for people who report corruption, fraud, tax evasion or avoidance, and misconduct within the corporate sector.</p>	<p>Dec 2016 – Ongoing</p>	<p>Treasury</p>
<p><i>Improve beneficial ownership transparency</i></p> <p>Australia will improve transparency of information on beneficial ownership and control of companies available to relevant authorities.</p>	<p>Dec 2016 – Ongoing</p>	<p>Treasury</p>
<p><i>Extractive industries transparency</i></p> <p>Australia will enhance disclosure of company payments and government revenues from the oil, gas and mining sectors, by implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Standard and continuing to support EITI principles around the world.</p>	<p>Sept 2016 – Ongoing</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Innovation and Science</p>
<p><i>Combating corporate crime</i></p> <p>Australia will strengthen its ability to prevent, detect and respond to corporate crime, particularly bribery of foreign public officials, money laundering, and terrorism financing, by strengthening relevant legislation including the <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i> and the <i>Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006</i>.</p>	<p>Dec 2016 – Dec 2019</p>	<p>Attorney-General's Department Department of Home Affairs</p>

London Summit 2016 (commitments that are still being implemented)	Start and end date (updated)	Lead actor
<p><i>Addis Tax Initiative</i></p> <p>Australia will double its investments to support developing countries to strengthen their tax systems by 2020, which includes efforts to counter tax avoidance and evasion.</p>	May 2016 – June 2020	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<p><i>Implementation of the UNCAC in the Indo-Pacific</i></p> <p>Australia will support countries in the Indo-Pacific region to strengthen the implementation of UNCAC via partnerships with UN agencies, including in the Pacific (\$5.56 million (AUD) July 2016 – June 2020) and South and Southeast Asia (\$7.47 million (AUD) October 2016 – September 2020).</p>	July 2016 – Sept 2020	Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
<p><i>Asset recovery and return</i></p> <p>Australia will continue to support effective regional forums for asset recovery, including the Asset Recovery Interagency Network for Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP) and the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN).</p>	Ongoing	Department of Home Affairs Australian Federal Police