"Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a Government’s ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice and discouraging foreign aid and investment.\(^1\)"

The Fraud and Anti-Corruption Centre (FAC Centre) is a multi-agency initiative hosted by the AFP Fraud and Anti-Corruption business area. Participating agencies include:

- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Taxation Office
- Australian Crime Commission
- Department of Human Services
- Australian Border Force
- Australian Securities and Investments Commission
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Defence
- Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre
- Attorney-General’s Department (advisory member)
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (advisory member)

The FAC Centre is focused on the following objectives:

- strengthening law enforcement capability to respond to serious and complex fraud, foreign bribery, corruption by Australian Government employees and complex identity crime;
- providing a coordinated approach to prioritising the Commonwealth operational response for matters requiring a joint agency approach; and
- protecting the finance of Australia.

\(^1\) Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) between 1997 and 2006, *UN Convention Against Corruption*, page iv
It will do this through delivery of the following key functions:

- **Referral evaluations, triage and review** - the FAC Centre will facilitate a collaborative and uniform multi-agency approach to the evaluation of all serious and complex fraud and corruption matters referred to the AFP, including those eligible for joint investigations. The Centre will also conduct standardised quality assurance reviews on key investigations for both AFP and partner agencies.

- **Training** – the FAC Centre delivers whole-of-government fraud investigations training, in partnership with AFP Learning and Development.

- **Intelligence** – the FAC Centre, including the ACC Fusion Centre, will maintain a coordinated specialist cell that will collect, analyse and disseminate data from Commonwealth partners; engage with existing domestic intelligence capabilities such as the Australian Intelligence Community; and work with financial intelligence agencies such as AUSTRAC.

- **Informing change** – the FAC Centre will support change in financial crime behaviour by identifying opportunities and initiatives for policy, regulatory and legislative reform. The Centre will also work collaboratively with the public and private sector to promote financial crime prevention.

- **Agency secondment and joint activity coordination** – the FAC Centre will provide a focal point and coordination function for the operational activities of relevant AFP outposted agents across Australian Government agencies.

Principles for referring matters to the FAC Centre include:

- involvement of multiple jurisdictions, multiple agencies or international jurisdictions

- significant priority risk matters including cases that need strategic input.

In line with existing AFP external agency referral processes, the FAC Centre will undertake detailed and joint evaluations of serious and complex fraud and corruption matters to ensure a comprehensive understanding of current issues and promote effective use of investigative resources.

To prioritise the criminal investigation work program, the FAC Centre will triage and evaluate serious and complex fraud and corruption referrals, where the referring agency has sought an AFP investigation or assistance and the allegation meets the criteria below:

- The allegation relates to an offence of foreign bribery or

- The allegation relates to any AFP "Fraud" incident type under the AFP Case Categorisation Prioritisation Model (CCPM), and any of the following circumstances exist:
  - the investigation is expected to exceed six months;
  - the alleged value of the fraud exceeds $250,000;
  - involves criminal or corrupt behaviour by Australian Government employees;
  - involves bribing of Australian Government employees;
  - involves multiple offenders acting together in an organised way to perpetrate the crime;
  - involves the repeated commission of offences over a number of years;
  - exposes a serious vulnerability in government systems, funding or revenue.

The FAC Centre also coordinates the multi-agency Serious Financial Crime Taskforce, which has been established to identify and address serious and complex financial crimes.

Information for Australian Government departments or agencies on how to refer a matter to the AFP for investigation can be found on the AFP’s website at: