Australian Government
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

ASIO Fraud Strategy Statement

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) is committed to minimising the potential for, and the incidence of, fraud through strong prevention and detection strategies. This reflects the legislative requirements and Commonwealth Fraud Management Framework and ASIO's commitment to promote the efficient, effective and ethical use of resources and information.

In line with ASIO's Strategy 2018–23, our vision is '*Trusted intelligence to secure Australia*'. At the core of this trust—given to ASIO by the Australian Government, the public and our intelligence partners here and overseas—is integrity. Reflecting this vision, ASIO's fraud control framework has been designed to enhance and support the integrity of the Organisation. Fraud has the potential to undermine the integrity and reputation of the Organisation, reduce the resources available for delivering on ASIO's objectives, and place public safety at risk.

What is fraud?

The Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework 2017 defines fraud as 'dishonestly obtaining a benefit or causing a loss, by deception or other means'. Dishonesty requires intent, and is the key differentiator between fraud and innocent conduct. Fraud includes a conscious fault element; it requires more than carelessness, accident or error. An intentional failure to take action to prevent a loss to ASIO when required to do so may also fall within the scope of fraud. There is a range of behaviours that meet the definition of dishonesty and fraud, and any benefit gained does not necessarily need to be tangible.

Fraud is not just a criminal offence but can also attract civil and disciplinary sanctions, including forfeiture of security clearance and dismissal.

Our approach to detecting, preventing and managing fraud

ASIO's approach to fraud includes:

▶ the establishment of the Fraud Management Group to provide advice and assurance on the extent and appropriateness of ASIO's compliance with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework;

▶ a biennial fraud risk assessment to identify key strengths and gaps in ASIO's fraud controls;

▶ mandatory fraud training;

▶ the adoption of a continuous improvement philosophy with specific reference to fraud in ASIO's Values and Code of Conduct;

▶ a communication strategy designed to improve staff awareness of their fraud management responsibilities.

Fraud management is a collective responsibility and therefore all of ASIO's workforce, including contractors and consultants, are obligated to familiarise themselves with ASIO's fraud control framework and their responsibilities. Importantly, individuals must report any suspected instances of fraud to the Fraud Management Group or Internal Audit directorate. Allegations and investigations of fraud is managed in the strictest of confidence.

Fraud reporting

Reporting of fraud allegations, anonymous or otherwise, can be made to:

Fraud Management Group
c/o Internal Audit
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
GPO Box 2176
Canberra ACT 2601

Internal staff can also forward disclosures through the internal mail system by addressing correspondence to the Director of Internal Audit.

19-10785