



# 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 of the *Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework 2017* and ASIO's commitment to promote the efficient, effective and ethical use of resources and information.

In line with ASIO's *Corporate Plan 2020–24*, 'ASIO protects Australia and Australians from threats to their security'. We do not just do what is legal, we do what is right. ASIO has zero tolerance for fraudulent behaviour and treats both suspected and actual fraud seriously.

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 key priorities, and place public safety at risk.

## What is fraud?

The *Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework* defines fraud as 'dishonestly obtaining a benefit or causing a loss, by deception or other means'.

Fraud requires intent. It requires more than carelessness, accident or error. When intent cannot be shown, an incident may be non-compliance rather than fraud. 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 are 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; it can also attract civil and disciplinary sanctions, including forfeiture of a security clearance and dismissal.

## Our approach to detecting, preventing and managing fraud

ASIO's approach to fraud includes:

- a fraud risk assessment every two years to identify key strengths and gaps in ASIO's fraud controls;
- mandatory e-learning training in the prevention and detection of fraud;
- the adoption of a continuous improvement philosophy with specific reference to fraud in ASIO's Values and Code of Conduct; and
- taking all reasonable steps to appropriately respond to suspected incidents of fraud and prevent further similar offences.

Fraud management is a collective responsibility. Therefore all of ASIO's workforce, including contractors, secondees, and people on placement, are obligated to familiarise themselves with ASIO's fraud control framework and their responsibilities.

Importantly, individuals must report any suspected instances of fraud. ASIO will take all reasonable steps to appropriately respond to suspected incidents of fraud and prevent further similar offences.

### Fraud reporting

All fraud allegations and investigations of fraud are managed in the strictest of confidence. Reporting of fraud allegations, anonymous or otherwise, can be made to:

Internal Audit  
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation  
GPO Box 2176  
Canberra ACT 2601