

Media Release

2016-2017 JCC Annual Report published

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This afternoon the first annual report of the Judicial Conduct Commissioner (JCC) was tabled in the South Australian Parliament.

The 2016-2017 report contains key operational information and statistics on the office of the JCC since commencement on 5 December 2016.

The Commissioner's report outlines the process for the creation of his office. The JCC "establishes, for the first time, a dedicated and independent mechanism for the receipt and consideration of complaints about the conduct of judicial officers," said Commissioner Lander.

The Commissioner outlines his complaints management process and key performance indicators, as well as legislative change to the *Judicial Conduct Commissioner Act 2015* (SA) (JCC Act).

During the office's seven months of operation in this reporting period, the Commissioner received 23 complaints and had another nine complaints brought to his attention by jurisdictional heads for noting.

Having expected an "initial flurry of complaints", the Commissioner noted that there may have been some reluctance to complain due to a statutory requirement for the complainant to identify himself or herself. However, "The mere existence of the office serves a purpose. It acts as a deterrent and thereby enhances public confidence in the judicial system," said the Commissioner.

The Commissioner also provides details in relation to education initiatives undertaken by his office, including delivery of presentations and distribution of education resources. "Since the commencement of the JCC Act, I have provided information and education resources to judicial officers, the legal profession and the public about my new role. I will continue to do so next year."

The 2016-2017 JCC Annual Report can be downloaded from the Commissioner's website: www.jcc.sa.gov.au