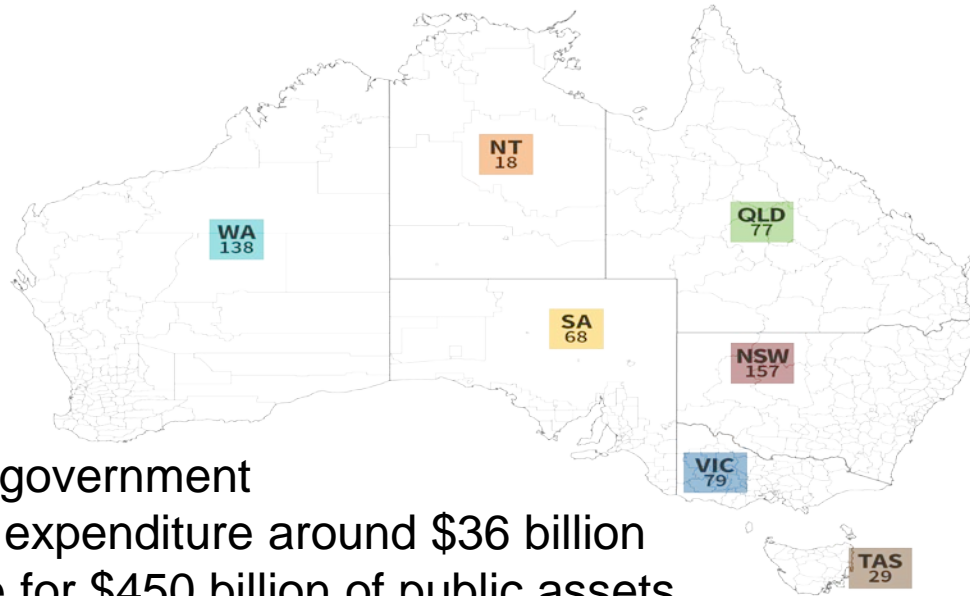


A faint, light blue map of the state of Victoria, Australia, is visible in the background. The map shows the outlines of various local government areas (LGA) across the state, with a slightly darker shade of blue highlighting the central and southern regions.

# Maintaining integrity and minimising corruption risks during local government elections

David Wolf  
Chief Municipal Inspector

# The Local Government context



- Third tier of government
- Operational expenditure around \$36 billion
- Responsible for \$450 billion of public assets
- Employs 186,500+ people across Australia

\* Figures from ALGA 2014/15 and 2015/16 Local Government National Reports

# What are the corruption risks for Local Government elections?



- Unlawful nomination
- Bribery of/for candidates
- Dummy candidates
- Misleading or deceptive material
- Coordinated Ballot paper fraud

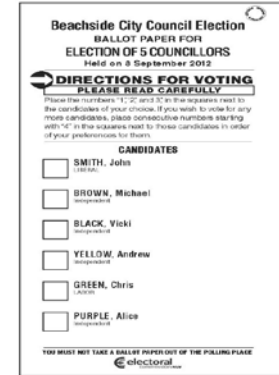
Dummy candidates exposed as threat to Victorian local government election integrity

ABC Central Victoria, by Stephanie Corbett  
Posted: Wed 26 Apr 2017, 12:45pm

**Wyndham council election probe ordered amid claims of bribery, deceptive conduct**

## What are the effects?

- Undermine democracy
- Reduce public confidence
- Legal, financial, reputational cost



# Integrity Agencies and LG elections

## Proactive preparation

- Internal processes, policies, resources, training
- Agency cooperation, MOU's
- Communication and education
- Council election period policies
- Candidate scrutiny

## Reactive role

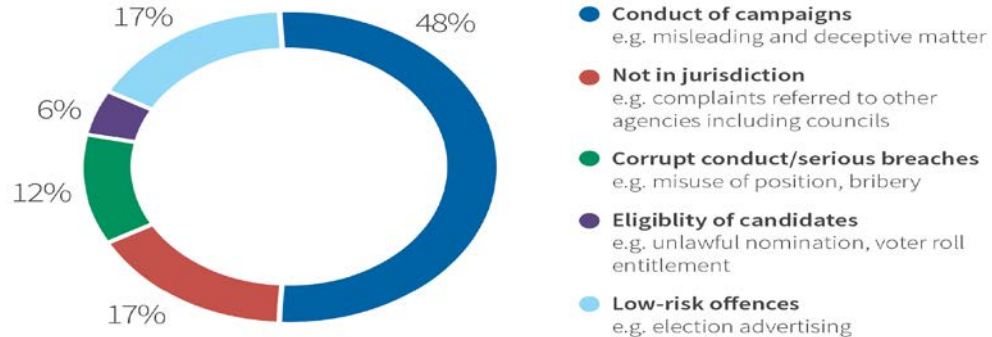
- Complaints receipt and assessment
- Complaint resolution
- Investigations
- Prosecute, report, inform

# Complaints, Campaigns and Corruption

 409  
number of  
formal complaints

 96%  
number of complaints assessed  
and actioned within two business days

Complaints by theme – 2016



# Unlawful Nominations – the planned and the ill-informed

**Deliberate deception:** candidates who knew the system and knowingly sought to undermine it

**Unaware or ill-informed:** candidates who were manipulated into nominating or did not understand the laws for nomination

APPENDIX 10

**Nomination Form**  
 Each candidate must submit this form **in person** to Returning Officer before the close of nominations.

<b>COUNCIL</b>	City Council 2016
<b>WARD</b> (if applicable)	

**CANDIDATE DETAILS** (please use BLOCK LETTERS)

Silent elector?

Title

Given names (in full)

Surname (in full)

Address on the voters' roll

Residential address (if different from above)

Postal address (if different from above)

Landline

Fax

Mobile phone

Email

\* Please asterisk which of the above phone, fax or email details you can be contacted on at short notice.

Form in which candidate's name is to appear on the ballot paper (clearly indicate capitalisation and accents).

Surname

Other name/s

**CONTACT PERSON** (The following details will be made available for public and media enquiries.)

Name

Landline

Mobile phone

Email

Candidate's signature

Date DD MM YYYY

continued over page

M300 Page 1 of 2 Victorian Electoral Commission

# Donations and support

**Election Campaign Donation Return** [Local Government Act 1989, Section 62] [Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2016, Regulation 118]

**Election Details:** Name of Council: .....  
 Ward (if applicable): .....

**Candidate Details:** Full Name of Candidate: .....  
 Address of Candidate: .....

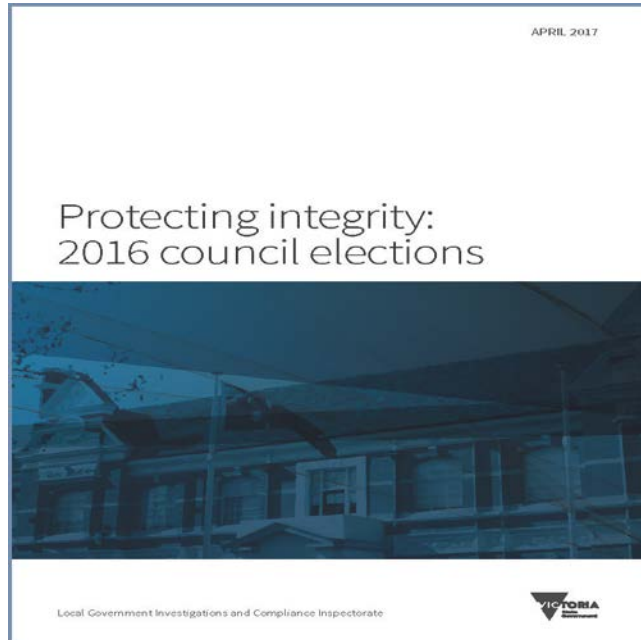
**Details of Gifts:**<sup>2</sup>

Name of donor	Address of donor	Value of Gift (\$)

**Candidate Declaration:**  
 I ..... declare that this is a complete record of a .....  
 Local Government Act 1989 and in accordance with Regulation 118 of the Local Gov.  
 provided in this return are a true and accurate record.<sup>3</sup>  
 Signature: ..... Date: .....

<sup>1</sup> If no gifts of the type that must be disclosed have been received, write the words "No disclosable gift" on the form, complete the form and lodge it with the Chief Executive Officer of the council within 40 days after the election.  
<sup>2</sup> For a gift in the form of goods or services, describe the gift. For a gift in the form of money, describe the form in which the gift was received.  
<sup>3</sup> Election Campaign Returns must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer of the council within 40 days after the election.  
 (If insufficient space, attach additional forms, number and initial all pages and sign the last page.)

# After the elections – Impact of our work



## Poll exits

Candidates forced out

Melbourne Council candidates Brooke Wandin, Richard Foster charged with electoral fraud





# Thank you

## Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate

Encouraging higher standards of integrity, accountability  
and transparency in local government

[inspectorate@lgici.vic.gov.au](mailto:inspectorate@lgici.vic.gov.au)

[www.lgici.vic.gov.au](http://www.lgici.vic.gov.au)

1800 469 359