

Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities

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To The Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee Queensland Parliament

Dear Committee Members,

Re: Submission to the Five-Year Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)

We welcome the opportunity to provide a submission to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's statutory five-year review of the CCC. We write as the parents of Luke Gilbert, who was killed by police in Airlie Beach on 1st October 2022 under highly suspicious circumstances. Luke wasn't under arrest or suspected of committing any crime when he was provoked twice, harassed and threatened with guns.

While our experience is deeply personal, our submission is not intended as an individual complaint. Instead, we seek to highlight systemic failures in the CCC's oversight, reporting, and handling of corruption matters, as evidenced through its role in overseeing the police investigation into our son's death.

We respectfully submit that our case demonstrates serious structural and governance problems in the CCC's operations, which require legislative and procedural reform if public confidence in Queensland's accountability framework is to be restored.

1. False and premature oversight reports

The CCC issued an "oversight report" only four days after our son's death, before any substantive investigation had occurred. This report contained factual inaccuracies that were contradicted by CCTV and body-worn camera (BWC) evidence.

Despite our repeated requests, the CCC has never explained how it produced a report containing demonstrably false information, nor why it was provided to the Coroner. The effect was to present a misleading narrative that prejudiced subsequent proceedings.

Systemic concern: Oversight reports issued prematurely and without reference to verified evidence are unreliable and undermine justice processes.

2. Failure to investigate CCC misconduct

When we raised concerns that the CCC's oversight report was false, we were told the CCC would investigate itself. As of October 2025, we have received no outcome despite repeated follow-up.

Systemic concern: The CCC cannot credibly investigate its own misconduct. There is no independent body tasked with ensuring CCC accountability, leaving the public without recourse when the Commission itself fails.

3. Improper devolution of complaints to QPS/ESC

Our initial complaint to the CCC was referred to the Queensland Police Service Ethical Standards Command (ESC), despite clear conflicts of interest in police investigating police. Subsequent allegations of misconduct, including falsified evidence, false media statements, and stalking and harassment of our son before his death, were also devolved to QPS.

No action has been taken. We received only a generic assurance that matters had been referred to the Acting Police Commissioner who has never contacted our family despite multiple attempts by us for him to address these serious concerns.

Systemic concern: The devolution principle, when applied to complaints involving deaths in police operations, creates a closed loop of self-investigation. This undermines impartiality and public confidence.

4. Lack of responsiveness and transparency

We have sent numerous emails requesting clarification about the CCC's oversight and the status of our complaints. These have been ignored or redirected. The CCC's response of 24 October 2024 acknowledged our concerns but provided no substantive resolution, directing us instead to pursue matters with QPS.

Systemic concern: There are no enforceable timelines or transparency requirements obliging the CCC to provide outcomes. Complainants can be ignored indefinitely.

5. Impact on the justice system

The CCC's false oversight report was provided to the police and the Coroner and shaped the investigation and inquest process. The Coroner later dismissed new evidence and evidence previously withheld by police as "irrelevant," relying instead on the CCC's flawed oversight.

Systemic concern: Inaccurate CCC oversight reports, presented as authoritative, can distort coronial and judicial processes with lasting consequences and result in miscarriages of justice.

6. Broader structural issues highlighted

- **Governance:** Absence of independent oversight of the CCC itself.
 - **Investigative powers:** Misuse through superficial or premature exercise.
 - **Oversight of police:** Ineffective where matters are devolved to QPS/ESC.
 - **Public confidence:** False assurance of accountability erodes trust.
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7. Recommendations for reform

We respectfully recommend the Committee consider the following reforms:

1. Establish an **independent oversight body** empowered to investigate complaints against the CCC itself which we call **“Luke’s Law”** and more broadly would investigate all deaths and serious injury by police.
 2. Prohibit the CCC from issuing oversight reports **before underlying investigations are complete.**
 3. Exclude police-related deaths or serious use-of-force matters from devolution to QPS/ESC, requiring independent investigation.
 4. Impose **statutory timelines** and reporting obligations for responses to complaints and reviews.
 5. Require **independent verification** of CCC oversight reports before they are provided to coronial or judicial authorities.
 6. Strengthen **transparency obligations**, including mandatory publication of complaint statistics, referral outcomes, and timelines.
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Conclusion

Our family’s experience demonstrates that the CCC’s current structures allow for premature, inaccurate oversight reports, devolution of critical complaints back to the agency under scrutiny, and a lack of accountability when the CCC itself acts improperly.

These are not isolated failings but systemic risks that erode public confidence in the CCC’s integrity and Queensland’s broader accountability framework.

We urge the Committee to address these issues through legislative and structural reform, ensuring that the CCC fulfils its vital role with independence, transparency and integrity.

Yours Faithfully,

Darren and Nicola Gilbert
(Parents of Luke Gilbert)