



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 11 September 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Integrity Commissioner

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.50 a.m.), by leave: On 21 August this year I announced the appointment of Australia's first Integrity Commissioner, the honourable Alan Demack AO. Today I table the Integrity Commissioner's first annual report.

Under section 28 of the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994 the Integrity Commissioner has three responsibilities: to give advice to designated persons about conflict of interest issues; to give advice to the Premier, if the Premier asks, on issues concerning ethics and integrity, including standards setting for issues concerning ethics and integrity; and to contribute to public understanding of public integrity standards by contributing to public discussion of policy and practice relevant to the Integrity Commissioner's functions—in other words, an educative role.

The annual report details requests for advice from the Integrity Commissioner in relation to the receipt of gifts and hospitality, the attendance of public officials at corporate functions, post-employment of public officials, and the declaration of prize winnings. Advice was also given to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on the proposed guidelines for the disposal of ministerial gifts. As outlined in the report, advice on conflict of interest issues has been given on 13 occasions—six in response to requests by my ministers or me, six in response to chief executive officers and one in response to another designated person. The Integrity Commissioner also has an educative role, as I said, which involves the allocation of time. This displays a commitment by my government to conduct business in a transparent and accountable manner by upholding the public trust that the government is open in its decision making.

Mr Demack, as Queensland's first Integrity Commissioner, has played an instrumental role in raising the profile of public sector ethics. This has been achieved through public forums to educate both public officials and private citizens about public sector ethics and through the establishment of a web site, which has contributed to the public's awareness about ethical issues and integrity. I lay upon the table a copy of the Integrity Commissioner's annual report for 2000-01.

Mr Swarten interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Yes, he is from regional Queensland.
