

# Take action to stop corruption!

Tips on writing letters to the editor and MP Trent Zimmerman

## Writing letters to the editor

The best tips on writing letters to the editor come from the papers themselves. This advice from Fairfax is useful for writing letters to any paper;

<https://www.smh.com.au/letters-tips>

When writing about complex policy areas like anti-corruption, less is more. There are lots of problems with the current system and lots of changes required to fix them. Pick the problem and solution most relevant to what's in the media at the time. For example, the car-park rorts story illustrates part of the problem well, and a strong part of the solution would be an Integrity Commission with the power to investigate this scheme.

Share what works. In your group, share the letters you send to learn from each other, and celebrate together when someone's letter is published!

## Writing to Trent Zimmerman MP

As a member of the government and Liberal party room, Trent Zimmerman can influence the position of the government, but will be expected to back the government position publicly.

You can give more detail in your letter to an MP than in a letter to the editor, but still keep it succinct. The main message to convey is that the ICAC proposed by the government last year is unacceptable, and his electorate demand the government deliver on their promise with an Integrity Commission that has the power to do the job.

### **The details of the governments Integrity Commission, and what would work**

This [assessment of the current proposal from the government by the Centre for Public Integrity](#) (CPI) is excellent. They also have an excellent [outline of what a strong Integrity Commission](#).

Some tips on ways to write a letter that will put some pressure on your MP;

- Be succinct. Focus on one or two aspects - you can always write again later!
- Reframe shortfalls in the government's proposal as questions that he has to answer. For example, Why does the government's bill prevent the Integrity Commission from investigating past corruption?
- Make an ask he can deliver on. He is not Minister but he is part of Government and so ask him to raise your objections to the current policy in the Liberal party meetings.
- Make it clear you expect answers in writing to your questions, and call his office if you don't hear back
- You are a constituent, so ask for a meeting. Doing this with a couple of other locals, as a member of a local group, even if it has nothing to do with corruption issues can make it easier to get a meeting.