



# Team Activity: Corruption series

Definition and team risk identification

15-20 mins



## Internal fraud and corruption: corruption risks for teams

### Activity overview

Groomers may target and attempt to corrupt ATO staff to understand or influence official systems, processes, information and decisions for a benefit. To minimise corruption risk staff must understand what corruption is and potential risks in their team.

The aim of this activity is to build foundational knowledge on what corruption is, and to rapidly identify team systems, information, processes and decisions which groomers may attempt to target.

### Learning outcomes

After completing this activity, your staff should:

- understand what corruption is
- have identified systems, processes, information and decisions relating to the team's official function, which outsiders may target.

### Instructions

Read the information below on 'what is corruption'. Discuss corruption with your staff. Ask your staff what they think corruption is, use their answers to generate discussion amongst the team.

### Discussion questions

- What is corruption?
- What information relating to our work might groomers target? Think about the different information we handle, our systems and processes, and the decisions we are responsible for.
- Why? (Encourage staff to discuss their reasoning together.)

## Key talking points

Corruption is the 'dishonest or biased exercise of Commonwealth official functions'. It can include:

- deliberate, biased or dishonest behaviour
- accepting bribes to influence a process
- biased tax related decisions
- favouritism or bias towards friends and family while exercising official duties (i.e. cronyism and nepotism)
- providing sensitive information to facilitate external fraud committed by others
- using an official position to influence audit processes such as which individuals or businesses are audited, and to what extent
- making favourable decisions in exchange for gifts or other benefits
- rigging procurement processes for personal benefit or benefit of a third party.

Those people seeking to corrupt public officials could target you for:

- taxpayer data, such as TFNs, names, addresses, debt status and more
- process information such as debt write-off thresholds and compliance activity
- sensitive operations including law enforcement activity
- decision criteria such as procurement decision thresholds.

## Next steps for you and your team to take

- You can find more information about your responsibilities in the [Internal Fraud and Corruption CEI](#).
- Contribute to a positive workplace integrity culture which can include openly discussing corruption prevention concepts and their application in your team and supporting reporting behaviours.
- Report any suspected or witnessed fraud and corruption to Speak up or by using the Anonymous Fraud Alert Form.
- Alternatively, any suspected or witnessed corruption that is serious or systemic can be referred directly to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). This is called a voluntary referral.

### For more information and resources

- You can head to our [SharePoint](#) site
- You can also find a link to our facilitator guide here
- Call the [Speak Up hotline](#) on **1800 061 187** to speak to FPII
- Search [Anonymous Fraud Alert Form](#) on myATO to report anonymously
- Find out more about the [National Anti-Corruption Commission](#)
- Email [SpeakUp@ato.gov.au](mailto:SpeakUp@ato.gov.au) for advice or to lodge an allegation
- Email [PublicInterestDisclosure@ato.gov.au](mailto:PublicInterestDisclosure@ato.gov.au) to lodge a disclosure.