

Circular Details	20-13 / 22 April 2020 / A698229
Previous Circular	20-06 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Development Updates
Who should read this	General Managers / Council governance staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / (02) 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information

Managing fraud and corruption risks during the COVID-19 pandemic

What's new or changing?

- Councils have been required to dramatically change the way they function in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Councils are also increasingly turning to web conferencing systems to connect online and to share and transfer files and information.
- Two new resources have been issued to assist Government agencies (including councils) to manage the fraud and corruption risks associated with these changes to their operations:
 - the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption's (ICAC) [Managing corrupt conduct during the COVID-19 outbreak](#), and
 - the Australian Cyber Security Centre's [Web Conferencing Security](#).
- Councils are encouraged to consider these resources and to make any necessary changes to their operations and internal control framework in response to the guidance provided in them.

Key points

- The risks of opportunistic and systemic fraud and corruption can become more prevalent during periods of significant disruption such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- To assist agencies to address this risk, ICAC has issued *Managing corrupt conduct during the COVID-19 outbreak*. This provides guidance on fraud and corruption risks associated with:
 - working from home
 - procurement and purchasing
 - cyber fraud and online hoaxes, and
 - stimulus funding and new programs.
- The Australian Cyber Security Centre has also issued guidance on *Web Conferencing Security*. This provides guidance on the use of online web conferencing and collaboration tools and the management of associated privacy, security and legal risks.

Where to go for further information

- *Managing corrupt conduct during the COVID-19 outbreak* is available [here](#).
- *Web Conferencing Security* is available [here](#).
- Councils can subscribe to the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Stay Smart Online Alert Service [here](#) for automatic updates on emerging online security threats.
- Email Mr Lewis Rangott, Executive Director, Corruption Prevention, ICAC, at lrangott@icac.nsw.gov.au for more information about how to manage fraud and corruption risks in your council.
- Report any suspicion of fraud or corruption to ICAC at icac@icac.nsw.gov.au.



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