The value of accountability and transparency for effective leadership



Accountability and transparency - why?

Many reasons

Integral to community confidence in government institutions

Step on the path to creating productive prosperous communities

High correlation and co-dependency between prosperity, rule of law, democratic institutions, and good governance frameworks

A universal truth

14 November 2019

Fraud and corruption scandal: Disgraced former WA bureaucrat Paul Whyte pleads guilty to 530 corruption charges for his role in \$22m rort









The lead up

- February New DG
- March Financial reporting
- April Integrity reporting
- May Independent chair A&R Committee
- June Three finance systems
- July Former colleagues
- August Misconduct allegations
- September Agency Capability Review
- October Integrity snapshot
- October Carers week movie night
- Oct/Nov Covert investigation by CCC and WAPOL

The aftermath

- Crisis management team
- · Forensic audit
- Independent PSC review
- MOG change
- Functional review
- Turn on financial controls
- Build one financial system
- Refresh values
- Training, mindset and culture
- Support staff wellbeing
- Senior staff resign
- Accountability agency reviews
- CCC hearings

Leading with resilience

- We've got this what's in our 'backpack'?
- Accept offers of help, go looking for help
- Burning platform leverage change
- Swift decision-making and strong action
- Clear line (but not head) in the sand
- Heal and rebuild our agency
- Recognise our staff are our greatest strength
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Restore external trust and confidence
- Prepare staff for the pile-on

Leading with integrity and accountability

- More than legal compliance
- More than policies and procedures
- Culture of integrity in everything we do
- Culture of safety staff feel safe to call out
- Culture of personal responsibility see something do something
- Red flags know what they are
- Diversity we all have blindspots
- Cost of an integrity breach so much more than \$\$

Leading with a mindset of service and partnership

- · Commitment to public good
- Courage to take on complex problems
- Ambition to exceed requirements, not just meet them
- Focus on improvement
- "We" vs "I"
- If it matters, don't be afraid to ask
- Plan to move on
- Be grateful every day

Final thoughts

- PSC's Integrity in financial management: Self assessment checklist (April 2021)
- Accountability and transparency frameworks deliver significant public value
- Accountability and transparency frameworks can also cost money, stifle innovation, deliver perverse outcomes and add unnecessary red tape
- Accountability and transparency frameworks must therefore be 'fit for purpose'
- And finally....LEADERSHIP and CULTURE

