

## Mark's Story

Mark, a member of the NSW public, contacted the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) using the online complaint form. Mark reported that he was recently arrested and that some items located in a safe within his home, including a large amount of cash, were confiscated by Police at the time of his arrest. Mark reported that no receipt was provided for the items that were seized and that evidence bags were not used during their confiscation. Mark is concerned that the items will not be returned and that the Police involved in the search are corrupt.

Gopika, an Assessment Officer, reviewed the allegations and conducted initial enquiries, including researching the officers involved. Gopika contacted Mark to acknowledge receipt of his complaint, clarify the information provided and to explain the next steps in the LECC assessment process. In the first instance, Gopika advised that Mark should contact Police to enquire about the confiscated items and to confirm if they had been receipted as evidence. As the LECC was unable to substantiate Mark's allegations based on the information provided, Gopika also recommended Police were best placed to conduct further enquiries. Gopika advised that with Mark's consent, his complaint would be referred to Police for further action.

The decision to refer Mark's matter to Police was endorsed by the Complaint Action Panel – an internal meeting consisting of the LECC Commissioners and other key staff which considers what action the LECC will take in regards to misconduct information received, taking into account the recommendations of the LECC Assessment Officers (such as Gopika). Mark's matter was also noted for review under the LECC's [oversight powers](#) by Gopika as the LECC has the ability to monitor, in real time, the progress and handling of complaints by the NSW Police Force or the Crime Commission.

Gopika wrote to Mark to let him know his matter would be referred to Police and that the LECC had the ability to oversee the Police handling of his complaint. Gopika then referred Mark's original complaint to Police. Once the complaint was received and triaged by the NSW Police Force, Gopika reviewed what action Police intended to take to ensure that the matter was handled appropriately. Gopika was satisfied with the Police response to the allegations and the matter was closed by the Assessments team.