

Graham Newton

Partner in Brisbane

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Graham leads our National Forensic practice and specialises in financial crime and investigations, contract assessment, dispute advisory and fraud risk management. He has more than 25 years of investigative and advisory experience providing value and guidance to clients across multiple sectors.

Graham has worked with all levels of government, private sector companies, listed groups and legal advisors on a range of assignments. His projects have included foreign bribery, financial crime and corruption investigations, workplace and misconduct complaints, contract disputes, forensic technology investigations and data analytic engagements targeting suspicious or anomalous contract fees and transactions, and control deficiencies. His investigations often require extensive document examination, analysis of data and financial records, witness interviews and examination of digital communications. Graham has given evidence in Magistrates, District and Supreme Court in relation to his investigations and reports produced.

Leveraging decades of experience, Graham shares his knowledge with the next generation of investigators by delivering training on fraud investigation techniques and regularly speaking at conferences and seminars on integrity issues, fraud and corruption awareness. Graham is also an adjunct lecturer at the University of Queensland where he teaches financial crime investigation techniques.

Engagement Experience —

- Investigations into serious allegations of foreign bribery and corruption by global corporate entities based in Indonesia, China, Africa and India. These investigations involved interviews with in country management team, analytics across large volumes of A/P data, examination of electronic source evidence and detailed review of the numerous contract versions to identify critical amendments and persons responsible for same. Interviews of witnesses and subject persons were also conducted with the outcomes being reported to lawyers and law enforcement.
- Forensic investigation into several Construction Managers of a construction company focusing on alleged criminal activities including financial crime and theft. The investigation identified a number of contractors who were complicit in fraudulent schemes and arrangements whereby financial documentation was falsified and approved by Construction Managers who received numerous unlawful payments.
- Investigations into fraud involving registered training organisation that were involved in falsification of training, certification and student records and then claiming of government funding. The investigations involved attendance at various sites under instruction of government to acquire all financial, student and training records that were then the subject of detailed forensic examination. We also interviewed RTO Directors and staff



Qualifications & Memberships —

- Master of Professional Accounting
- Master of Public Policy and Administration
- Diploma in Government (Investigations)
- Diploma in Government (Fraud Prevention)
- Associate Member, CA ANZ
- Adjunct Lecturer, University of Queensland



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to obtain information from them in relation to these allegations. Our investigations were able to quantify several million dollars in fraudulent funding obtained by the RTO's and our reports were later referred to police for criminal investigation and prosecution.

- Investigations on behalf of a mining group into the alleged fraud of a senior payroll officer. Our investigations involved the examination of vendor master files including audit logs, emails, A/P records and laptops used by the executive. The investigation identified approximately \$320,000 in fraudulent invoices altered by the suspect after changing the vendor details to enable payment into their bank account. The matter was referred to police for prosecution.
- Three investigations on behalf of a global coal mining group focusing on allegations of fraud and misconduct in their Australian operations. One of these investigations involved a mine supervisor who had created three companies that were interposed as a third party to on sell the hire and lease of machinery, equipment and labour at marked up prices from the original provider. The matter was subsequently referred to police for further investigation.
- Investigation on behalf of a global laboratory that certified the quality of coal shipments being exported from Australia. It was alleged that staff were involved in the falsification of certifications that resulted in the value of coal shipments being inflated. The investigation involved the interview of all staff, examination of mobile devices, laptops, servers and coal certification platforms to identify the volume of certificates and mining groups and persons involved. The matter remains with regulators and law enforcement.
- Delivered training on financial crime investigation techniques in Australia, Nepal, Korea, the United States, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.