



## Sara Deady

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### Qualifications & Memberships

- Member, CA ANZ
- Bachelor of Commerce, Australian National University, Canberra
- Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), Australian National University, Canberra

Sara is a Chartered Accountant and forensic expert specialising in financial crime, regulatory investigations and proactive fraud and corruption risk management.

With more than twelve years of dedicated forensic experience, Sara has led a number of high profile civil and criminal investigations across a broad range of industries. Sara works closely with senior executives, boards and their legal counsel to navigate the complexities of fraud, employee misconduct, corruption and regulatory enquires.

Recently, she has led a number of major investigations into bribery, corruption and fraud, including a matter involving senior employees at a global fleet leasing company and one of its major customers and an investigation into a large fraud at a listed media entity. Sara has also managed a team engaged by a listed entity (and endorsed by ASIC) to act as their Independent Expert following the company entering into an Enforceable Undertaking in relation to continuous disclosure obligations.

Sara also partners with clients to develop and review integrity and governance frameworks and has extensive experience in benchmarking fraud and corruption programs and performing fraud and corruption risk assessments. As a well-regarded specialist in her field, Sara shares her knowledge and expertise by delivering fraud and corruption training in both the public and private sector.

### Engagement Experience

- Led a major investigation into bribery and corruption by senior employees at a global fleet leasing company and one of its major customers. A four month investigation identified significant and long standing issues of fraud, misconduct and accounting irregularities. The investigation involved working closely with the client, its auditors (local and international), its legal advisors, the NSW Police as well as international regulators to identify, quantify and report on the issues identified in a timely and complete manner.
- Led the investigation into an alleged fraud perpetrated by a finance manager of a listed media company. Our investigation required significant reconstruction of financial records over a 13 year period, interviews with key management personnel and data analytic procedures to identify any other instances of misconduct. The investigation identified significant and long standing accounting irregularities used to conceal the alleged fraud. The investigation involved working closely with the client, its auditors and its legal advisors to quantify losses and trace funds in relation to pending civil proceedings and to report to the Board on the issues identified.



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- Led a fraud and analytics investigation into an alleged fraud perpetrated by an employee of a financial institution. The engagement involved the identification and quantification of loss and resulted in referral to the Australian Federal Police.
- Led a fraud and analytics risk assessment for a large vehicle financing company, following the identification of a large internal fraud. The engagement included an analysis of the businesses core systems, development of detailed process maps, interviews with 30 key staff as well as delivery of a fraud risk assessment workshop to the businesses' key executives.
- Led the team engaged by a listed entity (and endorsed by ASIC) to act as their Independent Expert following the company entering into an Enforceable Undertaking in relation to continuous disclosure obligations. The role of the Independent Expert included a review and assessment of the governance, compliance and risk management frameworks in place to assist the entity in managing its Continuous Disclosure Obligations with the ASX and ASIC. The role also included conducting a series of interviews with staff and the Board and preparation and delivery of training to staff and executives.
- Part of a multi-disciplinary team engaged on behalf of an educational institution to investigate allegations of collusion between a senior staff member and a key supplier. The allegations included overcharging and the provision of kickbacks in return for awarding a \$40m contract. Our investigation required significant reconstruction of financial records and transactions as well as a complex Forensic Technology investigation to access and examine large volumes of data. The matter has been reported to the NSW Police and civil proceedings have commenced.
- Assisted various international financial institutions with investigations into non-compliance with internal and regulatory standards by employees, including suspected insider trading, front running and leaks of market sensitive information.
- Part of the investigation team for the Acting Trusteeship of several public offer superannuation funds including investigating and seeking compensation from the Government in relation to Australia's largest ever superannuation fraud. Our investigations resulted in the receipt in excess of \$50 million in compensation.
- Provided investigation services in Malaysia to a multinational technology company. The worldwide investigation resulted from concerns raised by the US Securities and Exchange Commission in relation to revenue recognition and financial reporting.
- Engaged by various NSW and Federal government departments to provide fraud risk management services. These engagements have included the development and delivery of fraud awareness training, fraud risk assessment workshops and development of Fraud Control Plans and Policies.
- Managed a fraud and misconduct reporting hotline to over 45 clients, with international offices.
- Managed a pre-employment screening service for a Big-4 professional services firm.