

TAFE manager reaped \$1.7m for his business'

■ Kim Arlington

A former TAFE manager could face criminal charges after the corruption watchdog found he engaged in "serious corrupt conduct" by procuring more than \$1.7 million from his employer for his own business.

Ronald Cordoba was acting manager of information and communications technology services at the TAFE NSW South Western Sydney Institute.

The Independent Commission

Against Corruption heard allegations he improperly raised purchase orders and authorised payments for his company, ITD Systems Pty Ltd, in 2014.

In a report released on Friday, ICAC found Mr Cordoba funnelled more than \$1.7 million to his business, deliberately concealing his ownership of it and using a fake name and title while communicating with TAFE SWSi.

Mr Cordoba also engaged in serious corrupt conduct when he used his position to secure \$55,000 from a contract-

or to TAFE SWSi, ICAC found. It recommended the matter be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration of criminal charges, including fraud and making false statements to an ICAC officer.

Mr Cordoba had held various positions with TAFE SWSi from 2002. He was suspended on full pay in August 2014 and resigned a month later from the institute, which has more than 72,000 students.

In a statement, TAFE SWSi - which

Mr Cordoba had held various positions from 2002.

had notified ICAC of the suspected fraud - said it had already implemented improvements to its systems and processes.

"While TAFE SWSi recognises that its systems and processes were not perfect, we believe the fraud was detected because of the professionalism and diligence of our staff, despite the complicated and extreme actions taken by Mr Cordoba," the statement said.

TAFE SWSi is also seeking further legal advice.

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