

Corporate / Company Fraud

See list of offences and penalties at end of table.

As to Tax Fraud in context of company see Table of Sentences: Tax Fraud

	CASE (AGE IF KNOWN)	OFFENCE AND MAX PENALTIES	AMOUNT	PLEA	ORIGINAL	APPEAL	RECORD	FACTS
1.	Walker NSWCCA 13.12.1993	12 x s.178BB (NSW) [5y]		VG	MT 2y AT 2y	Conviction AD	Nil	Managing Director of private company - controlled 35% shares - made false statements to journalists over several months to favourably influence share prices and obtain profits on share trading.
2.	Maslen (1995) 79 A Crim R 199	s.178BB (NSW) [5y]		VG	MT 18m AT 6m	AA. Exceptional circumstances - sick son. 3y PD	Priors for false pretences	Director of company made false statements in relation to his equity in company in order to persuade two people to invest \$500,000 in purchasing manufacturing and distribution rights. Parity – ill son
3.	Robards (54) NSWCCA 23.7.1996	7 x 178A (NSW) [7y]	\$6,876	PG	24m PD GBB 5y	AD		Real Estate agent stole from trust fund to support business.
4.	Giallussi (42) [1999] NSWCCA 56	5 x s.29D (Cth) [10y]	\$264,110 (appellant received \$39,000)	PG	\$100,000 fine	AA 3y PD (fine paid)	Nil	Female - Part-owner of nursing home involved in ongoing systematic falsification of records over period of approx 5y Two teenage sons – remorse - motivated by greed - money repaid by sentence.
5.	P Child (49) J Child (28) [1999] NSWCCA 407	3 x s.178A (NSW) [7y] s.178BA (NSW) [5y] 3 x aiding and abetting s.178A (NSW) [7y]	\$906,291	VG VG	MT 4y AT 1y 4m FT 2y (concurrent) MT 2y 6m AT 10m	AD	Nil	Father and son set up company - received money from clients and used it other than in accordance with terms received. Father dominant offender Both suffering hereditary brain damage - son suffering frontal lobe damage.

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6.	Boskovitz (49) [1999] NSWCCA 437	3 x s.178BB (NSW) [5y]		VG	MT 3y AT 2y (identical concurrent sentences)	AA MT 2y 3m AT 1y 9m (identical concurrent sentences)	nil	Female executive falsely led three banks to believe employer company in strong financial position in order to obtain credit facilities. Good character - married with teenage son - no financial benefit - felt obliged to act as she did as employee.
7.	Giam (No.2) (43) (1999) 109 A Crim R 348 [1999] NSWCCA 378	s.176A (NSW) [10y]	millions	VG	5y GBB	Crown AA MT 14m AT 16m	nil	Accountant arranged for set off facility with bank for property management company - used it for own purposes to finance gambling addiction. Married with two young children; prior good character. On appeal: MT reduced by 10m for PSC - AT reduced 8m for period on bond
8.	Houghton (54) [2000] NSWCCA 62	26 x s.173 (NSW) [10y]	\$1,376,293	PG	MT 18m AT 2m	Crown AD	nil	Defrauded investors in superannuation business for purpose of obtaining funds to set up new business Funding gambling and personal loans to family - gave self in - health problems.
9.	Phillis (23-24) [2001] NSWCCA 91	15 x s.178BA (NSW) [5y] Possess counterfeit money Sched: 56 x s.178BA	\$240,329	PG	MT 18m AT 12m 6m <u>Total:</u> MT 2y AT 12m	AA MT 18m AT 12m 1m <u>Total</u> MT 19m AT 12m	some offences committed while on bail - driving offences	Committed offences in attempt to keep business going and pay creditors. Offences committed over ten month period. Found counterfeit notes and attempted to spend them. Father of one child. 6m sentence reduced to 1m for possess counterfeit money count (imposed cumulative to fraud offences)
10.	Woodman (45) [2001] NSWCCA 310	4 x s.88(a)(i) (NSW) [10y] s.88(b)(i) (NSW) [10y] Sched: 18 similar offences	\$62,231.83	PG (25%)	3y 9m NPP 1y 3m	AD	nil	Sole real estate agent failed to account for rental money over 4 year period - used money to support failing business. Previous good character. Because of unusual nature of offences difficult to use comparative statistics.

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11.	Kearns [2003] NSWCCA 367	4 x s.232(6) (Cth) [5y] 3 x s.178BA (NSW) [5y] 2 x s.178BB (NSW) [5y]	\$730,000+	VG	6y NPP 4y 6m	AD		Made improper use of position as officer of company to cause four payments to be made to own company – deceitfully obtained bank cheques from company – dishonestly obtained funds from investors
12.	Howard (43) [2003] NSWSC 1248 Kirby J	s.184(1)(b) (Cth) [5y] s.184(1)(a) (Cth) [5y]	\$119,000 - \$124,000	PG (40% / 33.3% - all factors)	3y NPP 2y Suspended		Nil	Chief Investment Officer for HIH – received money to settle outstanding million dollar claims of one person with company – at least one claim involved double payment – acted dishonestly – aware company in financial trouble – serious breach of trust Married with three children – prior good character – excellent prospects of rehabilitation – voluntary disclosure of guilty – excellent assistance
13.	Adler (46) [2005] NSWSC 274 Dunford J [2006] NSWCCA 158	2 x s.999 (Cth) [5y] s.178BB (NSW) [5y] s.184(1)(b) (Cth) [5y]		PG (2 x 15% 2 x 25%)	4y 6m NPP 2y 6m	AD	Nil	Director of HIH – offences serious and display appalling lack of commercial morality – not suggested offences caused collapse of HIH Good character – significant pecuniary penalty and compensation order paid out
14.	Williams (68) (2005) 152 A Crim R 548 [2005] NSWSC 315 Wood CJ at CL	s.996(1) (Cth) [5y] s.184(1)(a) (Cth) [5y] s.1308(2) (Cth) [2y]		PG (25%)	4y 6m NPP 2y 9m		Nil	Chief Executive then Director of HIH – considerable abandonment of duty and significant breach of trust – recklessness not intentional dishonesty – offences did not cause HIH collapse – part of general mismanagement Exemplary character – considerable and genuine remorse – extra curial consequences

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	CASE (AGE IF KNOWN)	OFFENCE AND MAX PENALTIES	AMOUNT	PLEA	ORIGINAL	APPEAL	RECORD	FACTS
15.	Cassidy (56) [2005] NSWSC 410 Wood CJ at CL	2 x s.178BB (NSW) [5y] s.184(1)(a) (Cth) [5y]		PG	FT 9m 12m suspended after 7m for 2y <u>Total:</u> 15m NPP 10m		Nil	Managing Director of HIH – recklessly signed documents without making proper inquiries – knowingly signed false documents – offences did not cause HIH collapse Good character – Assistance
16.	Loiterton (58) [2005] NSWSC 905 Kirby J	s.999 (Cth) [5y]		PG (15%)	3y NPP 1y 6m		Nil	Director and chairmen made statement to Australian Stock Exchange known to be materially misleading – referred to cash payment to be received by company without mentioning condition to payment – seeking to boost share prices – deteriorating financial position of company Experienced company director – health - delay
17.	Martin (41-45 at offence 53 at sentence) [2005] NSWCCA 190	s.172 (NSW) [10y]	\$488,875	PG (25%)	4y NPP 3y	AD	Nil	Director of strata management agency took money over four years – attempting to make company look solvent – when discovered faked suicide and left state for 7 years Good character
18.	Cooper (47) [2006] NSWSC 609 James J [2009] NSWCCA 57	6 x s.249B(2)(b) (NSW) [7y] 7 x s.178BB (NSW) [5y]		VG	5y NPP 2y FT 3y 6m <u>Total:</u> 8y NPP 5y		Nil	Involvement in HIH collapse – bribed HIH chief investment officer (<i>Howard</i> – (2003) NSWSC [1248]) to settle disputes between HIH and offender's company on favourable terms – total payment of \$119,000 - \$124,000 – created and provided HIH with false documents and statements in relation to outstanding claims by offender's company on HIH – bribery and documents resulted in unjustified payment of millions of dollars to offender's company – substantial damage to HIH Bankrupt - \$2.5m paid to liquidator – prior good character – good prospects of rehabilitation

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19.	Kelly (51) [2006] NSWSC 1142 Hall J	s.178BB (NSW) [5y]		PG	500h CSO		Nil	Assistant company secretary for HIH – involved in concealing financial circumstances of associated company to avoid requirement to repay US\$75m under conditions of covenant – acted under orders from superiors – concealment conducted over many months Good character
20.	Boulden (42 at sentence – 33 at offence) [2006] NSWSC 1274 Whealy J	s.590(1)(c)(iii) (Cth) [2y]	\$5.5m improper reduction made to financial statement	PG (discount reflected in PD)	12m PD		Nil	Financial Controller in company related to HIH – arranged for improper reduction to company liabilities – released to Australian Stock Exchange as half yearly consolidated results – lied about reductions – middle management acting on direction – mid-level seriousness Married with young children – good character – contrition – evidence of rehabilitation during delay
21.	Lo (57) [2007] NSWSC 105 McClellan CJ at CL	3 x s.178BB (NSW) [5y] s.184(1)(a) (Cth) [5y]		PG (50% plea and assist)	9m		Nil	Company secretary to HIH - intent to obtain financial advantage - pledging of assets - reckless signing of quarterly and annual returns - failure to disclose financial state of affairs - departure from standards of corporate governance Assistance to authorities
22.	Fodera (48) [2007] NSWSC 1194 Bell J	s.232(2) (Cth) [5y]		PG (15%)	3y 4m (partially accumulated to existing sentence) <u>Total:</u> 4y 10m NPP 3y		Nil	Chief financial officer of HIH – failed to inform directors and auditor of HIH true terms and effects of understandings and contractual arrangements to be entered into between subsidiary company and third party – second most senior officer – deliberate failure to disclose – above mid-range See related sentence <i>Fodera</i> , [2007] NSWSC 1242
23.	Fodera (47) [2007] NSWSC 1242 Latham J	s.996(1)(b)(i) (Cth) [5y]		VG	3y NPP 2y		Nil	Chief financial officer and director of HIH – authorised issue of prospectus with material omission – acted dishonestly – breach of trust – deliberately misled potential investor Prior good character

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24.	A.Gomes J.Gomes [2008] NSWCCA 142	12 x s.176A (NSW) [10y] Sched: 62 x .s.176A 12 x s.176A (NSW) [10y] Sched: 62 x .s.176A	\$2.044m	PG (35% all factors) PG (35% all factors)	5y NPP 3y 5y NPP 3y	AD		Company directors – scheme involved selling false invoice debts to complainant company over several years – all invoices contained in charges repaid –representative offences – breach of trust Seeking to avoid company bankruptcy – unlikely to re-offend
25.	Kamha [2008] NSWSC 765 Grove J	s.590(1)(c)(iii) (Cth) [2y] Sched: Fail to act honestly in discharge of duties		PG	6m Immediate release to recog for 12m		Nil	Arranged for reduction in claims estimates in database of FAI which ultimately caused report to show profit of \$3m instead of \$8m loss – instructed by superior to make changes – not aware of impropriety at first – failed to report matter when became aware of impropriety – previous attempts to report matters rebuffed Good character – offer to give assistance
26.	Suleman (46) [2009] NSWCCA 70	15 x s.178BB (NSW) [5y] 11 x s.300(2) (NSW) [10y]		PG (15%)	7y 4m NPP 5y 6m	AA 6y 4m NPP 4y 9m	Dishonesty	Induced, sometimes by fraudulent documents, members of public to invest in offender's company - company incorporated in 1999 to take over offender's highly successful business in collection of supermarket trolleys – company received investments totalling \$3,185,000 – investors lost \$828,915. Respected member of Assyrian community – community members influenced by offender's position and reputation to invest.
27.	O'Meara (65) [2009] NSWCCA 90	s.134.2(1) (Cth) [10y] 4 x Att s.134.2(1) (Cth) [10y]	Over \$500k - almost received payment of \$15m	VG	Prior to 2000 fraud, firearms drugs	8y NPP 5y 4m	AD	From July 2001 to September 2002 made false claims for refunds of GST in Business Activity Statements submitted to Tax Office in names of companies controlled by offender - statements contained false information concerning alleged purchases claimed to have been made that incurred GST

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28.	Wakefield [2010] NSWCCA 12	8 x s.173 (NSW) [10y] Sched: 18 offences	\$626,467	PG	5y NPP 4y	AA 5y NPP 3y 9m		Manager of company became involved in pre-existing diversion of funds for private use – took offences to new levels – offences committed over 3 years
29.	Richard (36) [2011] NSWSC 866 Garling J	2 x s.1041G (Cth) [5y] Sched: s.1041E(1) (Cth) [5y]	\$26.6m	PG (37.5% plea and assist)	3y 9m NPP 2y 6m		Nil	Director of financial investment company – over nearly four years directed superannuation funds into inappropriate overseas investments – aware conduct dishonest – received personal benefit of \$1.3m – all money lost – nearing upper range of seriousness – pivotal role – central figure in Australia – motivated by greed – rolled up charges – carefully planned and concealed offences Assistance – significant contrition – prior good character
30.	Bangaru [2012] NSWCCA 204	4 x s.178BB (NSW) [5y] 9 x s.178BA (NSW) [5y]	\$3.7m \$19.8m	VG	8y 6m NPP 6y 4m	AD	Nil	Director of two companies – Nov 2001-Dec 2003 misappropriated \$3.7m from 17 investors – Jan 2004-July 2005 obtained \$19.8m from financial institutions after making statements with reckless disregard to whether false and misleading in material particular – statements related to financial position of companies – substantial loss – planned / organised criminal activity Married with children – family suffered security issues after arrest – good prospects of rehabilitation
31.	Pogson Lapham Martin [2012] NSWCCA 225	s.1308(2) (Cth) [2y] s.178BB (NSW) [5y] s.178BB (NSW) [5y] s.178BB (NSW) [5y]		PG	2y ICO 2y ICO 1y 4m ICO	Crown AD	nil	Directors provided false figures in prospectus – inflated figures by \$8.4m – deliberate and planned offence – no loss to investors and no direct financial gain – Martin's criminality less ICO imposed on Pogson and Lapham inadequate but discretion to dismiss Crown appeal exercised

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32.	Kerr (46) [2014] NSWCCA 235	11 x s.178BA (NSW) [5y] 2 x s.300(2) (NSW) [10y] 26 x s.193B(1) (NSW) [20y]	\$246,461.25	VG	<u>Aggregate:</u> 6y NPP 4y	AD	Nil	Sent two faxes with falsified signature of business partner authorising payment of money into personal accounts – some money paid into first account transferred into second account and some money transferred back to company over four months – planned and protracted criminal activity Suffering depression
33.	Lu [2014] NSWCCA 307	21 x s.176A (NSW) [10y] s.178BA (NSW) [5y]	\$2.163m	VG	9y NPP 6y	AD	Dishonesty as bank worker	Set up company and invited investments – falsely linked investments to 'Perpetual' brand name – took money but did not invest – offences committed over 3 years – 11 victims – many victims lost life savings Suffering PTSD from assault linked to offences
34.	De Angelis (50) [2015] NSWCCA 197	14 x s.176A (NSW) [10y] 2 x s.178BA (NSW) [5y]	\$8.5m	PG (12.5%)	12y NPP 7y 6m	AD	Nil	2004-2010 – director of registered music company – persuaded 16 victims to invest large sums of money – made extravagant false claims about financial and social standing and association with significant world figures – gave victims false information about finances – company had no real business dealings and was under threat of deregistration by ASIC Difficult childhood as orphan
35.	Sigalla (51 at sentence) [2016] NSWSC 52 Adamson J [2021] NSWCCA 22 Co-Offender: FALCONER	24 x s.184(2)(a) (Cth) [5y]	Over \$8.6m	VG	10y NPP 6y	AA 9y 6m NPP 5y 9m	Nil relevant	Dec 2006 - Mch 2009 – company director helped himself to funds and shares – gross dereliction of duties – damage to investor confidence in public company No remorse On appeal: erroneously took into account totality in fixing sentence for individual offences – erroneously found no rehabilitation because of not guilty plea

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36.	Holloway (54) [2017] NSWCCA 17	10 x s.192E(1)(b)	\$269,291	VG	4y NPP 2y 6m	AD	nil	CEO of Australian branch of British company created false invoices over 10 months and had company pay cash – money went to offender's account although may not have been sole beneficiary – acquitted of 69 charges under s.176A for similar conduct in the preceding years – breach of trust – degree of planning – mid-range Health problems On appeal: verdicts not inconsistent – sentence not excessive
37.	Falconer (70 at sentence) [2018] NSWSC 1765 Adamson J Co-offender: SIGALLA	4 x s.184(2)(a) (Cth) [5y] s.184(2)(b) (Cth) [5y] s.1309(1) (Cth) [5y]	\$6,276,783	PG (25%)	<u>Total</u> 4y 6m NPP 3y		Nil	Dec 2006-Feb 2009 – director involved in stealing money from company – gross dereliction of duty – breach of statutory and fiduciary duties - personal gain \$1,419,000 – as director and company secretary reviewed and signed report to ASX failing to disclose payments – lesser offender – serious offences Good character – poor physical and mental health – lost reputation – did not oppose extradition
38.	Roach [2019] NSWCCA 160	Conspiracy to dishonestly obtain benefit 2 x s. s.1309(1) (Cth) [5y] 6 x s. s.1307(1) (Cth) [5y]	\$900,000	VG	3y 6m NPP 18m 9m 6m <u>Total:</u> 4y 3m NPP 2y 3m	AD		Director of company conspired to obtain \$900,000 loan – money advanced by bank to board who advanced it to offender - falsely represented money to be used to purchase shares in company – money used to repay loan from offender's sister – authorised false statement regarding share purchase to be made to ASX – falsified books to show sham purchase of shares – conspiracy of mid-range

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39.	Edelbi (28-30) [2021] NSWCCA 122	s.93T(1) Participate in criminal group (NSW) [5y] 5 x s.192G(b) Dishonestly make false statement (NSW) [5y] 5 x .s192E(1)(b) (NSW) [10y] Sched: 10 x s.192G(b)	Total false claims \$46,060 – total money obtained \$33,000	PG (comb 45%)	<u>Aggregate</u> 3y NPP 2y	AA 1y 11m ICO (taking into account 13m custody)	nil	Owners and directors of physiotherapy business made fraudulent insurance claims over 2 years – used false invoices and false appointment records – ‘sustained period of deception ... a sophisticated scheme’ – representative counts – breach of trust – offender managed financial accounts – around mid-range offending Mental health issues – remorse – good prospects of rehabilitation – assistance On appeal – failure to consider ICO – risk of re-offending best addressed by ICO

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Table of Offences

Offence	Section	Status	Maximum Penalty
Crimes Act 1900 (NSW)			
Trustee fraudulently disposes of property	s.172	1900 – 22.2.2010	10 years
Director of company or member of body corporate fraudulently appropriate property of company or body corporate	s.173	1900 – 22.2.2010	10 years
Cheat or defraud as director or member of body corporate or public company	s.176A	2.11.1979-22.2.2010	10 years
Fraudulent misappropriation of money collected or received	s.178A	12.3.1929-22.2.2010	7 years
Obtain valuable thing by deception	s.178BA	2.11.1979-22.2.2010	5 years
Obtain valuable thing by false or misleading statement	s.178BB	2.11.1979-22.2.2010	5 years
Dishonestly by deception obtain property or financial advantage or cause financial disadvantage	s.192E(1)	22.2.2010 - current	10 years
Dishonestly make false statement with intent to obtain property, obtain financial advantage or cause financial disadvantage	s.192G	22.2.2010-current	5 years
Intentionally deal with proceeds of crime intending to conceal	s.193B(1)	28.10.2005 - current	20 years
Corruptly receive or solicit commission or reward	s.249B	5.7.1987 - current	7 years
Use false instrument	s.300(2)	16.7.1989-22.2.2010	10 years
Crimes Act 1914 (Cth)			
Defraud Commonwealth	s.29D	25.10.1984-24.5.2001	10 years
Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 1941 (NSW)			
Fraudulently convert property to own use	s.88(a)	1.7.1941-31.8.2003	10 years
Fraudulently omitting to account for money received	s.88(b)	1.7.1941-31.8.2003	10 years
Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)			
Director or other officer of a corporation recklessly fails to exercise powers and discharge duties in good faith in the best interests of the corporation or for a proper purpose.	s.184(1)(a)	15.7.2001-13.3.2019 13.3.2019-current	5 years 15 years

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Offence	Section	Status	Maximum Penalty
Director or other officer of a corporation is intentionally dishonest and fails to exercise powers and discharge duties in good faith in the best interests of the corporation or for a proper purpose	s.184(1)(b)	15.7.2001-13.3.2019 13.3.2019-current	5 years 15 years
Director, other officer or employee uses position dishonestly with intention of directly or indirectly gaining advantage for themselves or someone else, or causing detriment to corporation	s.184(2)(a)	15.7.2001-13.3.2019 13.3.2019-current	5 years 15 years
Director, other officer or employee uses position dishonestly reckless as to whether the use may result in themselves or someone else directly or indirectly gaining an advantage or causing a detriment to corporation	s.184(2)(b)	15.7.2001-13.3.2019 13.3.2019-current	5 years 15 years
Past or present officer of a company fraudulently parted with, altered or made any omission in book affecting or relating to affairs of the company	s.590(1)(c)(iii)	15.7.2001-current	2 years
False or misleading statements in relation to securities	s.999	15.7.2001-11.3.2002	5 years
False or misleading statement likely to induce person to acquire financial products	s.1041E(1)	11.3.2002-12.12.2010 13.12.2010-12.3.2019 13.3.2019-current	5 years 10 years 15 years
Engaging in dishonest conduct in course of carrying on a financial services business	s.1041G	11.3.2002-12.12.2010 13.12.2010-12.3.2019 13.3.2019-current	5 years 10 years 15 years
Falsification of company books	s.1307(1)	15.7.2001-12.3.2019 13.3.2019-current	2 years 5 years
Knowingly make or authorise misleading statement in document required for purposes of Corporations Law	s.1308(2)	15.7.2001-1.7.2004 1.7.2004-18.2.2020	2 years 5 years
Knowingly make or authorise misleading statement in document required for purposes of Corporations Law	s.1308(1)	18.2.2020 – current	5 years
An officer or employee of a corporation knowingly making available false information	s.1309(1)	15.7.2001-1.7.2004 1.7.2004-18.2.2020	2 years 5 years
Corporations Act 1989 (Cth)			
Officer of body corporate failing to act honestly in exercise of powers and discharge of duties of office with intent to deceive or defraud.	s.232(2)		5 years

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Offence	Section	Status	Maximum Penalty
Officer or employee of body corporate makes improper use of position to gain an advantage or to cause detriment to body corporate.	s.232(6)		5 years
Authorise issue of prospectus with material omission	s.996(1)		5 years
Criminal Code (Cth)			
Obtain financial advantage by deception	s.134.2	24.5.2001-current	10 years

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