

## Public Interest Disclosure

The [Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012](#) (the Act) promotes the reporting of serious wrongdoing in the public sector. Any member of the public, including ACT public servants, may report matters of misconduct that is in the public interest. The Act provides rights and protection for people who report corrupt, illegal or improper conduct, or substantial waste of public resources. It ensures that ACT government agencies investigate and act on substantiated disclosures.

### What is a Public Interest Disclosure (PID)?

Sometimes matters are so serious that they sit outside the normal complaint or feedback system. Certain disclosures trigger a special framework put in place to handle these kinds of serious or systemic concerns. This scheme takes these matters out of the regular complaint handling process and places them in a category called a 'Public Interest Disclosure' (PID). A PID is not a mechanism for solving a personal grievance. It is a process within government to deal with matters of a serious nature which it is in the interest of the public to resolve.

Disclosable conduct includes activity by an ACT public sector employee or entity that:

- is illegal;
- is a substantial misuse or waste of public money or resources;
- is misconduct;
- is maladministration that adversely affects a person's interest in a substantial or specific way;
- presents a substantial and specific danger to the health or safety of the public; or
- presents a substantial and specific danger to the environment.

A PID can be about the actions of an entity, officer, employee, contractor or anyone else who exercises a function on behalf of the Government, including Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

What must Directorates do under the Act?

ACT Government directorates must:

- receive disclosures;
- treat disclosures confidentially;
- have arrangements in place to consider disclosures and take appropriate action on PIDs;
- give people who make disclosures feedback about the investigation of the disclosure; and
- take appropriate action about complaints of victimisation and give information about remedies that are available.

## Public Interest Disclosure Procedures

As required under the Act, CMTEDD has procedures for dealing with public interest disclosures at this link [CMTEDD PID Procedures](#).

The procedures include information on:

- what is a PID;
- who can make a PID;
- protection for people who make disclosures;
- who can receive a PID and what they must do with the information disclosed;
- who will be responsible for determining whether an investigation is required and how it should be conducted;
- who is the decision-maker in relation to PIDs, and what actions may be undertaken in response to a PID;
- who is responsible for keeping the discloser informed; and
- avenues of review available against a PID decision.

## Who in CMTEDD can a disclosure be made to?

Disclosures relating to CMTEDD should be made to one of CMTEDD's Disclosure Officers:

Executive Director, Corporate

Director, Corporate Management

Ms Sue Hall

Ms Kirsten Thompson

Ph: +61 2 6207 0569

Ph: +61 2 6207 8207

E [sue.hall@act.gov.au](mailto:sue.hall@act.gov.au)

E [kirsten.thompson@act.gov.au](mailto:kirsten.thompson@act.gov.au)

GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601

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## Further information

If you require further information on PIDs, how we deal with them, or information to assist in differentiating between a PID and other complaints/matters, please contact us:

Email: [CMTEDDCorporate@act.gov.au](mailto:CMTEDDCorporate@act.gov.au)

Telephone: +61 2 6207 5883