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# What is a Public Interest Disclosure?

23/04/2018

A Public Interest Disclosure (PID) is a disclosure made under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013* by a current or former public official about suspected wrongdoing in the Commonwealth. The emphasis is on disclosures being made and investigated within government. It is not intended to replace existing processes for dealing with workplace grievances and misconduct, such as bullying and harassment.

## What can be disclosed?

A public official can disclose information that they believe is 'disclosable conduct' committed by an agency or a public official. This includes:

- A breach of law
- perverting the course of justice
- corruption
- maladministration
- abuse of public trust or position
- wastage of public monies
- endangering health and safety or the environment
- grounds for disciplinary action.

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## How is a discloser protected?

The identity of a discloser will be kept confidential as far as practicable. It is an offence to provide identifying information about a discloser without their consent unless authorised by the PID Act. They also have immunity from civil, criminal and administrative liability for making the disclosure. It is a criminal offence to take or threaten to take a reprisal, such as discriminatory treatment, termination of employment or injury, against someone because they make a disclosure.

## How do I make a disclosure?

A disclosure can be made to your supervisor or to an Authorised Officer.

Supervisors who receive a PID must pass the information onto an Authorised Officer as soon as practicable. They should provide additional information about the PID process to the discloser and seek their consent for their contact details to be given to the Authorised Officer. They must not discuss the report with anyone other than the discloser and an Authorised Officer.

Authorised Officers can be contacted via:

Email: [xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)

Phone (in Australia): 1800 427 743

Phone (Overseas): +612 6275 6896

For more information, visit the [Public Interest Disclosure intranet page](#).

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## Public interest disclosures

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### What is a public interest disclosure?

A public interest disclosure occurs when public officials raise suspected wrongdoing within the Commonwealth public sector which negatively impacts the interests of the Australian public.

### How do you know what kind of conduct should be disclosed?

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013* sets out what constitutes wrongful conduct and includes a [list of disclosable conduct](#). You should familiarise yourself with the behaviours and activities on this list.

## Are you protected if you choose to make a public interest disclosure?


The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013* provides protection to any person who makes a public interest disclosure (a PID discloser). A PID discloser will be protected by civil, criminal and administrative immunity and will be granted immunity from disciplinary action for making the disclosure.

It is a criminal offence to:

- revealing the identity of a PID discloser
- reveal information which could identify them
- threaten or take any reprisal action against them.

and could result in imprisonment.

## What do you do if you receive a public interest disclosure?

Supervisors who receive a PID from a PID discloser must pass the information onto  as soon as practicable. They should provide additional information about the PID process to the individual and seek their consent for their contact details to be given to the Authorised Officer. **They must not discuss the report with anyone other than the PID discloser and an Authorised Officer.**

## How do you make a public interest disclosure?

Report any wrong doing which could be considered disclosable conduct:

**Email:** [disclosures@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:disclosures@homeaffairs.gov.au)

**Phone:** 1800 427 743 (within Australia) or +612 6275 6896  (outside Australia).

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