

Public Interest Disclosure

Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003 (PID Act)

The PID Act enables people to make disclosures about wrongdoing within the state public sector, local government and public universities without fear of reprisal. The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to make disclosures by maintaining confidentiality and providing immunity from detrimental action.

What is a public interest disclosure?

A disclosure must relate to a matter of public interest and tend to show **wrongdoing** by a **public body**.

What is a public body?

- A public authority (State Government, local government, public university etc);
- A public officer (Employee of a public authority, a minister, a member of parliament, a judicial officer, a police officer, a holder of office under the State);
- A public sector contractor (a person or organisation engaged by a public authority).

What is a wrongdoing?

- Improper conduct;
- Offence under State Law;
- Substantial misuse of public resources;
- Substantial mismanagement of public resources;
- Substantial risk to public health, safety or the environment;
- Matter of administration that can be investigated by the State Ombudsman.

Who can make a disclosure?

Anyone who believes on reasonable grounds that the information they have is or may be true can make a disclosure, including an employee of a public authority and a member of the public.

How do I make a disclosure?

Your disclosure must be made to a **proper authority**.

Who is a proper authority?

- The PID Officer within the public authority where the wrongdoing occurred;
- A Police Officer;
- Corruption and Crime Commission;
- WA Ombudsman;
- Auditor General.

Useful contacts?

- For further information about public interest disclosures visit: <https://publicsector.wa.gov.au/public-administration/official-conduct-and-integrity/public-interest-disclosures>
- Alternatively call the PID Advice and Referral Line: 1800 355 835