**Public Interest Disclosure**

The [Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/pages/pid/) (PID) commenced on 15 January 2014. The Act provides an avenue for public officials to make a disclosure that they reasonably believe meets the definition of disclosable conduct. The Act also aims to promote the integrity and accountability of the Commonwealth public sector by:

* encouraging the disclosure of information by public officials about suspected wrongdoing in the public sector;
* ensuring that public officials who make disclosures are supported and protected from adverse consequences; and
* ensuring that disclosures are properly investigated.

**What is disclosable conduct?**

This means conduct by an agency, public official or a contracted Commonwealth service provider that:

* contravenes a law
* is corrupt
* perverts the course of justice
* results in wastage of public funds or property
* is an abuse of public trust
* unreasonably endangers health and safety or endangers the environment
* is misconduct relating to scientific research, analysis or advice
* is maladministration, including conduct that is unjust, oppressive or negligent

**Who can make a disclosure?**

A current or former ‘public official’ can disclose information that they believe on reasonable grounds tends to show disclosable conduct. This broad term includes Australian Government public servants and parliamentary service employees, members of the Defence force, staff and directors of Commonwealth companies, statutory office holders and staff of Commonwealth contracted service providers.

**Protections for the person who makes the disclosure**

The identity of a person who makes a disclosure will be kept confidential as far as practicable. It is an offence to provide identifying information about a person who makes a disclosure without their consent unless authorised by the *PID Act*.

**Authorised Officers**

Under the PID Act, each agency must appoint authorised officers to handle public interest disclosures. Disclosures can also be made to a supervisor/manager, who must pass it to an authorised officer. For the purposes of this Act the following staff have been appointed as authorised officers:  
  
Elmer Wiegold   
(02) 9357 9431  
  
Claire Howlett  
(02) 9357 9424

**Who can a disclosure be made to?**

You can make a disclosure to your current supervisor or manager, an authorised officer, or alternatively to [corporate@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:corporate@canceraustralia.gov.au)

**Further information**

Further information regarding the Public Interest Disclosure Act can be found on the Commonwealth Ombudsman’s [website.](https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/)