

## DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION UNDER THE *PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE ACT 2013*

### **The Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013**

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013* (PID Act) promotes integrity and accountability across the Australian public sector by encouraging the disclosure of information about suspected wrongdoing.

If you become aware of a situation where you suspect serious wrongdoing, for example, fraud or other misconduct, and you are a former or current public official, you can report your concerns under the Public Interest Disclosure Scheme (PID scheme). The scheme covers most Commonwealth agencies and provides protections for public officials who make disclosure reports.

Under the PID Act, the Australian Statistician and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) are committed to:

- protecting people from reprisal action relating to the reporting of disclosures;
- taking action to investigate suspected wrongdoing; and
- taking remedial action where an investigation finds wrongdoing.

This form has been designed by the ABS to assist current or former Public Officials to disclose information under the PID Act. The form outlines the requirements and important facts which potential disclosures need to consider.

### **Wrongdoing that can be reported**

Allegations of wrongdoing made through the PID scheme are called public interest disclosures. You can disclose information if you believe, on reasonable grounds, that it tends to show disclosable conduct.

Disclosable conduct includes conduct that:

- contravenes a law;
- perverts the course of justice;
- is corrupt;
- is maladministration with improper motives, unjust, oppressive, or negligent;
- is an abuse of public trust;
- results in a waste of public money;
- unreasonably endangers health and safety; and
- endangers the environment.

Complaints about government or ABS policy are not considered public interest disclosures.

### **Who can make a public interest disclosure**

It is a requirement of the PID Act that you must be a current or former 'Public Official'. A 'Public Official' includes any person who is or was employed or appointed by the Australian Government (including members of the Defence Force and the Australian Federal Police), staff of Commonwealth companies, Commonwealth authorities and statutory agencies, the Parliamentary Service, statutory officeholders and service providers under contract to the Commonwealth.

### **Who will see this information**

For the purposes of making a disclosure under the PID Act, the Australian Statistician has appointed Authorised Officers to receive and assess disclosures.

Information provided in this form may be viewed by Authorised Officers, ABS Investigative Officers and the Australian Statistician. Depending on the circumstances, some details may be disclosed to other parties if the ABS deems it necessary to protect you from detrimental or reprisal actions as a result of making the disclosure.

Your consent will be sought prior to your personal information being disclosed to other parties.

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### **Lodging this form with the ABS**

The completed form can be lodged with the ABS through electronic mail addressed to [pid@abs.gov.au](mailto:pid@abs.gov.au).

To gain the protections of the PID Act, a public official must comply with the Act. This means that if they disclose wrongdoing to someone who is not authorised to receive it, their disclosure will not be covered.

The information you disclose, as well as any investigation or findings from the ABS, should be kept confidential between yourself and the Authorised Officers. This will reduce the risk of reprisals being taken against you.

### **Assistance**

For advice on completing and providing this form to the ABS, please contact an ABS Authorised Officer by emailing [pid@abs.gov.au](mailto:pid@abs.gov.au).

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### Disclosable conduct being disclosed under the PID Act:

The information being disclosed constitutes the following type of disclosable conduct under the PID Act:

With regards to the disclosable conduct being reported:

Who is involved:

*(people involved in,  
or aware of, the  
disclosable conduct  
and allowed it to  
happen/continue)*

When did it occur:

Where did it occur:

Background, relevant events or information/evidence regarding the disclosable conduct:

*You do not need to prove that what you suspect is true so long as you honestly and reasonably believe it involves disclosable conduct.*

Has anything been done in response to the wrongdoing (including anything you did in response and whether the wrongdoing has been, or is currently being investigated through, another investigative mechanism):

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### In disclosing information under the PID Act:

<p>Do you believe that the information is a public interest disclosure under the PID Act?</p> <p><i>In providing your answer, please consider whether the disclosure of this information is not contrary to the public interest.</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>If an ABS Authorised Officer assesses this disclosure as compliant with the PID Act, would you like this matter to be investigated as a public interest disclosure?</p> <p><i>In providing your answer, please note that the PID Act allows for wrongdoing to be investigated through other means, where appropriate. Please consider whether an alternative investigation is appropriate or preferred by you, the discloser.</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Are you concerned about possible reprisal action being taken against you as a result of making a disclosure?</p> <p><i>Please note that to limit risk of reprisal action, you should not communicate your involvement in this disclosure to any party other than those ABS staff authorised to receive and investigate disclosures under the PID Act.</i></p> <p><i>The Authorised Officer receiving this disclosure will assist the ABS in assessing what risks exist, and where appropriate, apply strategies to protect you from reprisals.</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>If you answered 'yes' to the above question, please provide information regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the types of reprisal action you believe may be taken against you;</li> <li>who you believe may take reprisal action against you;</li> <li>the likelihood of any reprisal action you believe may be taken against you; and</li> <li>any received threat(s) or history of conflict that exists with the person(s) you fear reprisal from</li> </ul>
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### Person disclosing information under the PID Act:

*Personal information in this form will be used for the purpose of the PID Act.*

*Where appropriate, and with your consent, your personal information may be provided for the purposes of the PID Act to the Australian Statistician, Authorised Officers, Officers investigating the reported conduct, and the Commonwealth Ombudsman.*

*The ABS privacy policy ([www.abs.gov.au/privacy](http://www.abs.gov.au/privacy)) explains how you can make a privacy related inquiry or lodge a privacy complaint.*

*You can remain anonymous, or use a pseudonym, however:*

- the ABS has the discretion not to investigate if you cannot be contacted for further information.*
- the ABS may not be able to notify you about the handling of your disclosure.*

Full Name

Contact  
Address

Email

Phone  
number

☐ I wish to remain anonymous.

*If you would like to be contacted for further information, or to be notified about the handling of your disclosure, please provide a point of contact above*

I am a current or former Public Official, evidenced by:

*Evidence to support your position may include your title, agency, AGS number, length of service or other information which can identify you as a public official*

*If you wish to remain anonymous, please provide as much information as possible without disclosing your identity*

☐ I consent for my personal details to be provided to other parties for the purposes of the PID Act.

In providing this information to an Authorised Officer of the ABS, I hereby state that:

- the information provided relating to disclosable conduct is not of a frivolous or vexatious nature; and
- I am aware that I am not exempt from liability if I am a participant in the wrongdoing being disclosed.

Signed ..... Date .....

*For persons wishing to remain anonymous, a signature is not required*

**ABS USE ONLY:**

Date Received: