

What is a Public Interest Disclosure and who can a disclosure be made to?

Essentially it is a disclosure by a current or former public official of suspected wrongdoing in the Commonwealth public sector. The emphasis of the scheme is on disclosures being made and investigated within government, but in limited circumstances a disclosure outside government is permitted.

<http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/pages/pid/information-for-disclosers/>

Disclosures can be made to a supervisor or an Authorised Officer. In AIATSIS, the Authorised Officers are the members of the Executive Board of Management (EBM), appointed by the Principal Officer (who is the Principal of AIATSIS)

http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/docs/Role_of_authorized_officers.pdf

The Process

The process set by the Ombudsmen's office and adopted by AIATSIS for dealing with an internal disclosure (ie. relating to wrongdoing within AIATSIS) can be found on Page 10 of this guide:

http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/docs/Speaking_up_about_wrongdoing.pdf

For more information on how to make a public interest disclosure:

http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/docs/fact-sheets/Ombudsman_PID_Fact_SheetB.pdf

Public Interest Disclosure Act and other resources

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013 (PID Act) – <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2013A00133> which commenced on 15 January 2014 promotes integrity and accountability in the Australian public sector by encouraging the disclosure of information about suspected wrongdoing, protecting people who make disclosures and requiring agencies to take action.

For further information please refer to the Ombudsman's website www.pid.ombudsman.gov.au

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