15 January 2014

Ms L Ross
Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Integrity
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Integrity Commission - Three Year Review

Dear Ms Ross

Thank you for your letter of 25 November 2013 inviting the Department of Education to provide a submission to the above review.

The department has noted the recommendations made by the Integrity Commission in its report to the Standing Committee. Recommendation 3 is of particular interest to the department, particularly as it relates to proposals around mandatory notifications.

We note in the body of the report that the Commission canvasses the notion of mandatory notification in regard to misconduct and serious misconduct and that the recommendation is limited to notification for serious misconduct. The department supports this limitation and would urge caution in establishing processes that duplicate existing or similar frameworks. There is a statutory process through the State Service Act to deal with alleged breaches of the code of conduct and this includes a review mechanism to the Tasmanian Industrial Commission. For a teacher who may be charged with misconduct, there is an additional layer of regulatory control through the Teachers Registration Board.

In regard to reporting, as outlined on page 52 of the Commission's report, the State Service Management Office (SSMO) collates information from within the state service sector of investigations involving a breach of the code of conduct commenced under the Executive Direction 5 process. The Commission could gain access to this reporting by agencies through the SSMO rather than establishing another level of reporting.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Colin Pettit
Secretary