

FACT SHEET

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES AMENDMENT **BILL 2009**

This Bill amends the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002* to provide a broader approach to public interest disclosure than currently exists – making it easier to report improper conduct and protect witnesses.

This Bill also takes into account the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Ethical Conduct, particularly in relation to the proposed establishment of an Integrity Commission.

The amendments will:

- Encompass a greater range of public interest disclosures by expanding the definition of improper conduct, which will provide coverage to a greater range of persons.
- Expand the functions of the Ombudsman, to include greater monitoring, advice, direction and education roles.
- Improve public sector agency internal procedures for receiving and handling disclosures.
- Provide timelines for investigations of public interest disclosures to ensure they are completed in a timely manner.
- Improve the protections and access to protections available to persons making a disclosure.
- Allow for disclosures to be made to the proposed Integrity Commission and allows for referral to and from the proposed Integrity Commission in certain circumstances.