

FACT SHEET

INTEGRITY COMMISSION BILL 2009

The Bill implements the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Ethical Conduct by establishing an Integrity Commission for Tasmania.

The Commission and its functions add to rather than replacing existing accountability mechanisms and entities such as parliamentary committees and the Ombudsman and Auditor-General who will be ex officio members of the board of the Commission.

The emphasis of the Integrity Commission will be on education and advisory services to ensure that public sector institutions perform to the highest ethical standards.

The Integrity Commission will also be able to handle complaints of misconduct in public authorities which are defined broadly to include Parliament, Ministers and their offices, Government departments, businesses and companies, Tasmania Police and councils and council owned companies.

A key feature of the Commission's operations will be the 'triage' of complaints. Once it has assessed a complaint the Commission can refer it to another agency or process for investigation and action when that is appropriate.

The Integrity Commission's own investigative work will largely focus on systemic misconduct and on allegations against senior and high profile public officers such as MPs, heads of agency and chief executive officers, the Senior Executive Service, aldermen and councillors and statutory office holders, and allegations of serious misconduct by senior police officers.