

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

National Integrity Commission Bill 2018

National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 (No. 2)

National Integrity (Parliamentary Standards) Bill 2018

The Australian government has been a member of the Open Government Partnership since 2013, and actively since November 2015.

The Australian Open Partnership Network is a coalition of civil society organisations and individuals committed to making government work better for people through transparency, participation and accountability. The network collaborates with and challenges governments in Australia to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms through Australia's membership of the OGP.

In joining the partnership the government endorsed the Open Government Declaration which includes commitments to increase the availability of information about governmental activities, support civic participation, increase access to new technologies for openness and accountability and to implement "the highest standards of professional integrity" throughout its administration, noting that accountable government requires high ethical standards and codes of conduct for public officials:

"We commit to having robust anti-corruption policies, mechanisms and practices, ensuring transparency in the management of public finances and government purchasing, and strengthening the rule of law. We commit to maintaining or establishing a legal framework to make public information on the income and assets of national, high ranking public officials. We commit to enacting and implementing rules that protect whistleblowers. We commit to making information regarding the activities and effectiveness of our anticorruption prevention and enforcement bodies, as well as the procedures for recourse to such bodies, available to the public, respecting the confidentiality of specific law enforcement information. We commit to increasing deterrents against bribery and other forms of corruption in the public and private sectors, as well as to sharing information and expertise."

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/open-government-declaration>

Throughout consultations in the development of Australia's first (2016-2018) and second (2018-2020) national action plans, required as a

condition of membership, the establishment of a national integrity commission and action to lift standards of integrity in public life ranked among the highest priorities.

See this selection of submissions and PMC notes on consultation meetings
<https://ogpau.pmc.gov.au/public-sector-integrity>

The Network Steering Committee supports submissions lodged by Transparency International Australia and Professor AJ Brown, both network members, on the content of the bills.

Peter Timmins
Interim Convener
www.opengovernment.org.au