



Review of the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Bill 2012 and the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012

The House Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee will inquire into and report on the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Bill 2012 and the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012.

The bills aim to strengthen public integrity by encouraging and facilitating the disclosure of corruption, maladministration and other wrongdoing in the Commonwealth public sector. It does so by providing protection for public officials to make such disclosures.

These bills were introduced following the House Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs 2009 report 'Whistleblower protection: a comprehensive scheme for the Commonwealth public sector'. This report outlined the primary legislative priorities of promoting integrity in public administration and supporting open and accountable government.

The Chair of the Committee, Graham Perrett, said that the Public Interest Disclosure Bill was an important step in providing protection for whistleblowers as well as promoting accountability in public administration.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make submissions to the inquiry by Friday 23 November 2012. Please note as the Committee will be considering the above bills and is not inquiring into whistleblowing, the Committee is not able to consider any individual cases.

A public hearing is scheduled for Friday 30 November 2012 in Canberra.

TIME: 9.00am – 10.45am
VENUE: 1R3, Parliament House Canberra

For the information about the inquiry, including copies of the bills and advice on making submissions, see the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/spla or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0434058200.

For background information, please contact the **Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs**:

PO Box 6021
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 2358
Facsimile: 02 6277 4427
E-mail: spla.reps@aph.gov.au
Website: www.aph.gov.au/spla