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The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

# Advisory Report

**Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Bill 2012**  
**Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection)**  
**(Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012**

**Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2013**

House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs

May 2013  
Canberra

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## Membership of the Committee

Chair	Mr Graham Perrett MP
Deputy Chair	The Hon. Judi Moylan MP
Members	The Hon. Laurie Ferguson MP (From 22 April 2013) The Hon. Shayne Neumann MP (To 22 April 2013) Ms Michelle Rowland MP Ms Laura Smyth MP The Hon. Dr Sharman Stone MP Mr Ross Vasta MP
Supplementary Member	The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop MP

## Committee Secretariat

Secretary	Dr Anna Dacre
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## Terms of reference

On 1 November 2012 the Selection Committee referred the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Bill 2012 (Wilkie Bill) and the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012 to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs for inquiry and report.

On 21 March 2013 the Selection Committee referred Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2013 (PID Bill) to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs for inquiry and report.



## List of abbreviations

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ACTU	Australian Council of Trade Unions
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ASIO	Australia Security Intelligence Organisation
ASIS	Australian Secret Intelligence Service
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
FWA	<i>Fair Work Act 2009</i>
IGIS	Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
LACA	House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs (predecessor to this Committee)
MOPS	<i>Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984</i>
PID	Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2013
SBS	Special Broadcasting Service
TJN	Tax Justice Network Australia
Wilkie	Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Bill 2012



## List of recommendations

### Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives pass the Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2013 having given consideration to amendments based on issues raised in this Advisory Report, in particular:

- the scope of protections offered where disclosures are made in good faith, though they may later be found to be false or misleading;
- the scope and clarity of protections offered for external disclosures; and
- the scope of protections from reprisals.

