



## **Protecting whistleblowers in the federal government public sector**

### ***Roundtable Discussion in Canberra on 9 September***

A range of public administration experts, lawyers, academics, media representatives and stakeholders with an interest in whistleblowing will gather on Tuesday 9 September, as part of a roundtable discussion, to explore the current debates surrounding protecting public interest disclosures (whistleblowing).

The Roundtable is part of an inquiry being conducted by the House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee into whistleblowing protections within the federal government public sector.

The Committee Chair, Mark Dreyfus QC, said, "The insights of such a gathering of experts in the public interest disclosure area will help the Committee in assessing what constitutes effective legislation in this area". He added, "These public discussions will contribute to the Committee's consideration of, and report on, a preferred model for legislation to protect public interest disclosures within the federal government public sector".

The Roundtable will examine a number of themes including:

- recognising the full landscape of public interest whistleblowing
- systems and institutions for the capture and management of disclosures
- an effective system for compensating mismanaged whistleblowers

The Roundtable will include representatives from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Whistleblowers Australia, WA Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner, the NSW Ombudsman, the Community and Public Sector Union, Fairfax Media Limited, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, the Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission, News Limited, and the Project Leader and research team representatives from the Australian Research Council Linkage Project 'Whistling While They Work'.

The Roundtable coincides with the launch of, *Whistleblowing in the Australian Public Sector—Enhancing the Theory and Practice of Internal Witness Management in Public Sector Organisations* (the first report of the Australian Research Council Linkage Project 'Whistling While They Work').

The roundtable will be held in **Committee Room 2R1, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Parliament House, Canberra** on **Tuesday 9 September 2008** from **1:30 to 4:30pm**. A list of participants and a program for the Roundtable are available at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/whistleblowing/hearings.htm>

Members of the public are welcome to attend the roundtable or to listen to the discussions which will be broadcast on **FM 98.3** in Parliament House, and via webcast on the APH website:

<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

#### **For interview:**

Contact the Committee Chair, Mr Mark Dreyfus QC, MP on (02) 6277 4305 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (03) 9769 1955.

Or Mr Dreyfus' media adviser, Tim Lisle-Williams on 0431 178 280.

**For background information**, including the full terms of reference, please visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/laca](http://www.aph.gov.au/laca) or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.