



## ***Review of the Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2013***

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs will inquire into and report on the Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2013 following a referral from the Selection Committee on 21 March 2013.

The Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2013 (the Bill) will establish a legislative scheme to investigate allegations of wrongdoing in the Commonwealth public sector and provide robust protections for current or former public officials who make qualifying public interest disclosures under the scheme.

The Bill would implement many of the recommendations of the House of Representatives 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.

As the Committee is already inquiring into the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Bill 2012 and the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012, the Committee will consolidate evidence from the existing inquiry as well as from this new inquiry into a single report for the House. The Committee expects to table its report in early June.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make submissions to the inquiry by Friday 19 April 2013. Please note as the Committee will be considering the above bill and is not inquiring into whistleblowing, the Committee is not able to consider any individual cases.

For information about the Inquiry, including copies of the bill and advice on making submissions, see the Committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla) or contact the committee secretariat

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0423 280 131.

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

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