

## **PART I**

### **THE DEVELOPMENT OF ETHICS REGIMES OVERSEAS AND IN AUSTRALIA**

Part I of the report is about probity in public affairs. It provides a brief outline of the political environment in Australia as a backdrop to the introduction of the four bills. It notes the growing concern over recent years about the conduct of members of parliament and ministers in their official lives and how such conduct is falling short of public expectations. The report then looks at some of the measures taken to promote ethical behaviour in elected officials and to strengthen public confidence in the institutions of government. In doing so, the report traces the development of ethics regimes overseas and in Australia as a point of comparison for the examination of the proposed legislation before this inquiry.

