



Public Interest Disclosures Policy Statement

The NSW Police Force is committed to protecting staff that make a public interest disclosure (PID) from reprisal action.

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* (the PID Act) sets out the system under which NSW public officials can make complaints about NSW government agencies in ways that minimise the risk of reprisal. For the purposes of the PID Act, a public official is an individual who is an employee, or is otherwise in the service, of a NSW public authority. For the NSW Police Force, this means a person employed under the *Police Act 1990* and all temporary staff, contractors and volunteers.

PIDs can be made about the following:

- corrupt conduct
- maladministration
- serious and substantial waste of public money
- failure to properly fulfil functions under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

A disclosure will be protected by the PID Act if it meets all of the requirements under the Act and meets a 'threshold test'. That is, it is information that the person making the disclosure **honestly believes on reasonable grounds, shows or tends to show**, any of the above.

Responsibilities:

For a report to be considered a PID under the PID Act, it **must** be made to certain designated officers within the NSWPF, as listed below:

- The Principal Officer, being the Commissioner of Police
- The Nominated Disclosures Coordinator, being the Manager, Complaints Services, Investigations and Field Services, Professional Standards Command (PSC)
- Nominated Disclosures Officers:
 - The Assistant Commissioner, Professional Standards
 - All Professional Standards Managers, except the Professional Standards Manager, PSC
 - The Manager, Administrative Officer Conduct Unit, PSC.

PIDs may also be made to a NSW investigating authority under the PID Act (e.g. Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, NSW Auditor General, Information Commissioner NSW, ICAC). NSWPF staff can also make PIDs about **other public authorities**. To do so, they must make their disclosure either directly to a nominated disclosure officer of that agency, according to that agency's policies and procedures, or alternatively to an appropriate investigating authority

**Endorsed by the Assistant Commissioner, Professional Standards
September 2014**