

OMBUDSMAN AN OFFICER OF THE ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



ACT Inspector of the Integrity Commission

The ACT Inspector of the Integrity Commission (the Inspector) was established on 1 July 2019 to provide oversight of the ACT Integrity Commission.

This information sheet provides an overview of the Inspector function.

What does the ACT Integrity Commission do?

The ACT Integrity Commission is an independent body with the power to investigate corruption in public administration. It works to strengthen public confidence in government integrity and is expected to begin operation by **1 December 2019**.

The ACT Ombudsman currently performs the role of Inspector in the ACT.

What does the Inspector do?

The Inspector:

- assesses and reports on the Commission's compliance with the <u>Integrity Commission</u> <u>Act 2018 (the Act)</u> under which it operates, including via an annual operational review report
- receives, investigates and assesses complaints about the Commission and its staff
- makes recommendations to the Commission or public bodies about practices or procedures in relation to the Act.

Can I make a complaint?

Once the Commission is operating, any person can make a complaint to the Inspector about:

- its operations
- action by Commission staff (something you think they should not have done)
- inaction by Commission staff (something you think they should have done).

This may be:

- a matter you referred to the Commission which they decided not to investigate
- a matter you referred to the Commission which they investigated or
- another matter.

Contact us

ombudsman.act.gov.au (02) 6276 3773 (select Option 5)

ACTInspector@ombudsman. gov.au

GPO Box 442 Canberra ACT 2601



How do I make a complaint?

Complaints can be made in writing by email. If this is not possible, please call us to discuss. We recommend you use our *ACT Inspector Complaint Form* as this will streamline the processing of your complaint.

Unless you wish to make an anonymous complaint, please include:

- your name
- your address
- your telephone contact number
- your email address
- a detailed description of the issue

It is best to list all relevant events in the order of which they happened, and give us an idea of the outcome you would like from the Inspector.

What happens after a complaint is made?

We will:

- consider the circumstances of your complaint
- consider whether a referral to another entity is appropriate
- advise you in writing, within two weeks, of our decision whether or not to investigate, or to refer it to another entity.

If we decide to investigate, unless you advise us not to or we are prevented from doing so under the Act, we will also provide you with:

- progress updates at least every three months
- an outcome and reasons for a decision to discontinue or finalise an investigation.

What if I disagree with the outcome?

You can ask us to review our decision in writing within three months of being told of our decision.

You must explain how or why you believe we have reached the wrong decision and provide any new relevant information that is available.

More information?

Please see our website at **ombudsman.act.gov.au** for more information including links to relevant legislation and policy documents.

Please note: This document is intended as a guide only. For this reason, the information should not be relied on as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice in individual cases. To the maximum extent permitted by the law, the ACT Ombudsman is not liable to you for any loss or damage suffered as a result of reliance on this document. For the most up-to-date versions of cited Acts, please refer to *legislation.act.gov.au*.