

Public interest disclosures e-news

Clarification to fact sheet and invitation to information session

Welcome to our second issue. In response to advice that we received, we have made some changes to our [first Fact Sheet](#) in order to clarify matters. If you downloaded our earlier version, please refer to the updated edition on our website.

Frivolous and vexatious

We have clarified the circumstances in which agencies may decline to investigate a disclosure. We have added “solely”, so that the Fact Sheet now states: “A public authority can no longer decline to investigate a protected disclosure solely on the grounds that it was made frivolously or vexatiously”.

Contractors

We have clarified which contractors can make a disclosure under the Act. The Fact Sheet now states: “Individuals who are engaged as contractors by a public authority will be included in the new definition of a public official who can make a protected disclosure or be the subject of one”. This means that only an individual who is contracted to provide services to or on behalf of a public authority can make a disclosure under the Act, not a person working for a company or non-government organisation contracted to a public authority.

We are inviting you to attend our first information session

In June 2011, we are holding our first public interest disclosures information sessions in Hearing Room 1, Level 24, NSW Ombudsman, 580 George Street Sydney. We will brief you about the upcoming amendments and policy changes and give you an opportunity to meet the staff of our Public Interest Disclosures unit and network with your colleagues working with protected disclosures. Information sessions are planned for **Wednesday 8 June, Thursday 23 June** and **Wednesday 29 June**. Sessions will run from 10.00 am-12 noon. Places are limited so please RSVP to pid@ombo.nsw.gov.au with your preferred date.

Subscribe

Please forward this bulletin to other people in your organisation who are interested in the changes to the public interest disclosures system. They can subscribe to this bulletin by emailing their details to pid@ombo.nsw.gov.au. To unsubscribe, email pid@ombo.nsw.gov.au with “unsubscribe” in the heading.

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NSW Ombudsman

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