

## Fact Sheet

# Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018 (SA) (PID Act) came into effect on 1 July 2019 and repeals the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993 (SA)

- The purpose of the PID Act is to:
  - facilitate disclosures about public administration information by public officers;
  - ensure that public disclosures are properly assessed and, where necessary, investigated and acted upon; and
  - ensure that a public officer making a disclosure is protected against reprisals
- The PID Act also has the effect of granting immunity to an *informant* who makes an appropriate disclosure of public interest information to a relevant authority for the purposes of the Act.
  - There are two categories of appropriate disclosures of public interest information:
  - An informant makes an appropriate disclosure of **environmental** and **health information** to a relevant authority; and
  - A **public officer** makes an **appropriate disclosure** of **public administration information** for the purposes of the PID Act if the disclosure is made to a relevant authority
  - An informant **only needs to believe**, on **reasonable grounds** that the **information is true**; or if they are not in a position to form such a belief, they believe on reasonable grounds that the information may be true, and it is of sufficient significance to justify its disclosure so it may be investigated

### Environmental and health information means:

Information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the **health** or **safety** of the **public generally** or a **significant section of the public** (whether occurring before or after the commencement of the PID Act)

### Public Administration Information means:

A **public officer** makes an **appropriate disclosure** of **public administration information** for the purposes of the PID Act if the disclosure is made to a relevant authority and the public officer **reasonably suspects** that the information raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration

