



# Factsheet

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## Are you a government contractor?

As a public officer, you have the same ethical responsibilities as those who are employed by a public authority.

### Contract work in public administration

State and local government agencies regularly contract people or companies to undertake work or provide services they cannot deliver themselves.

Contractors might be engaged to deliver major infrastructure projects, to assist in delivering core business services, or to provide internal services such as cleaning, security and waste management. They could be tradespeople, consultants and advisers, or temporary staff engaged through labour hire companies.

### Contractors as public officers

If you are contracted to a public authority, or working for a company contracted to a public authority, then you are a public officer while you are performing that contract work.

As a public officer, you have the same ethical responsibilities as those who are employed by a public authority. You are expected to act honestly and diligently and you are expected to speak up if you notice that others are not meeting this expectation.

More specifically, you are obliged to report your suspicions of corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration. As a contractor you can be investigated for alleged corruption, misconduct and maladministration.

All public officers, including contractors, must report to the Office for Public Integrity any conduct they reasonably suspect to involve corruption in public administration.

## Reporting wrongdoing

As a contractor, you may become aware of behaviour or issues which could undermine the integrity of the public authority or public administration more broadly. It is important that you are able to identify and report those matters so that they can be addressed.

All public officers, including contractors, must report to the [Office for Public Integrity](#) any conduct they reasonably suspect to involve corruption in public administration.

Corruption involves certain criminal offences, including:

- Bribery or corruption of public officers
- Threats or reprisals against public officers
- Abuse of public office
- Offences relating to appointment to public office
- Offences against the *Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability Act) 1995*, the *Public Corporations Act 1993* and the *Lobbyists Act 2015*


**Reports raising potential corruption may result in an investigation by the Independent Commission Against Corruption.**

Public officers are also encouraged to report suspected misconduct and maladministration to the [South Australian Ombudsman](#).

Misconduct involves an intentional and serious contravention of a code of conduct by a public officer, while acting in their capacity as a public officer. Maladministration involves the mismanagement of public money, resources or functions and is often the result of poor governance or negligence.

Not all reports to the Office for Public Integrity or the Ombudsman are investigated. However, all reports help to understand integrity issues and identify areas which need attention.

## CONTACT US

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