



# Thinking of reporting corruption or misconduct? You may have protections

[www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

Corruption and misconduct in state government bodies and local councils hurts the entire Victorian community. If you have information about improper conduct in a Victorian government agency, local council or Victoria Police you can report it to IBAC.

## How will I be protected if I report corrupt conduct?

People who report corruption and/or misconduct in the public sector have protections under the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* (the Act). Your complaint could be confirmed as a **protected disclosure** by IBAC if it meets certain criteria set out in the Act.

Your complaint must show:

- improper conduct by a public sector employee which must be either criminal conduct or conduct serious enough to result in a person's dismissal, or
- detrimental action by a public sector employee which includes harassment or discrimination, or other adverse action taken against a person in reprisal for having reported the alleged improper conduct.

People seeking protection under the Act should carefully consider whether their complaint meets these basic thresholds.

When you make a disclosure you are initially automatically entitled to the protections under the Act including:

- your identity being kept confidential
- immunity from liability in legal proceedings
- protection from reprisal for reporting the corruption or misconduct.

When IBAC receives your disclosure we will assess and confirm if it qualifies as a protected disclosure under the Act. If it does, the protections outlined above will continue.

If IBAC determines that it does **not** qualify as a protected disclosure, the above protections will **no longer apply**.

If you have concerns about your complaint not meeting the threshold for protection and you don't want your identity disclosed, you can make an anonymous complaint.

## How do I report suspected corruption or improper conduct?

You can make a complaint about corruption or improper conduct directly to IBAC

OR

to the Protected Disclosure Coordinator of the Victorian state government department or local council you are complaining about.

All Victorian state government departments, administrative offices and local councils must have a Protected Disclosure Coordinator whose role is to provide you with welfare support and advice if you make a protected disclosure. You can find information about how to make a complaint to a Protected Disclosure Coordinator on the relevant government department or agency's website.

Public bodies or agencies must refer all complaints that they believe could qualify as protected disclosures to IBAC.

The agencies that can accept protected disclosures are listed on the fact sheet *What is a protected disclosure?* This is available at [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

Some government agencies are unable to receive protected disclosures. Disclosures about these agencies should be made directly to IBAC.

## Who investigates protected disclosures?

If IBAC determines a complaint to be a protected disclosure it will then either investigate it or refer it to another more appropriate investigating entity such as the Victorian Ombudsman, Victoria Police or the Victorian Inspectorate.

If your complaint is not classified as a protected disclosure, IBAC may dismiss it, or if it was reported via a government agency's Protected Disclosure Coordinator, refer it back to that government agency for appropriate action.

Find out more at [www.ibac.vic.gov.au/reporting-corruption](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/reporting-corruption)

## Before you make a complaint

### Be informed and discreet:

- seek information from IBAC or the Protected Disclosure Coordinator in your organisation (if you work in the public sector)
- think about whether your complaint will meet the basic threshold of improper conduct or detrimental action before reporting
- if you have concerns about your complaint not meeting the threshold for protection and you don't want your identity disclosed, you may consider making an anonymous complaint.

For more information contact IBAC on **1300 735 135** or make a report securely online at [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

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IBAC is Victoria's anti-corruption agency responsible for preventing and exposing public sector corruption and police misconduct. We do this by:

- investigating serious corruption and police misconduct
- informing the public sector, police and the community about the risks and impacts of corruption and police misconduct, and ways in which it can be prevented.

To report corruption now, visit [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au) or call **1300 735 135**.

If you need help with translation, call Translating and Interpreting Service on **13 14 50** or visit [www.ibac.vic.gov.au/general/accessibility/tr](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/general/accessibility/tr)

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