

## Media release

9 December 2022

### Ombudsman's Public Interest Disclosure Annual Report 2021-22

The NSW Ombudsman's 2021/22 annual report on public interest disclosures (PIDs) across NSW was tabled in Parliament today.

The report, titled ***Oversight of Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 Annual Report 2021-22***, highlights the following findings from the information received from NSW public authorities:

- 79% of public authorities reported not receiving any PIDs in 2021–22. (This was only slightly lower than previous years).
- Of more than 400 public authorities across NSW, 75 public authorities reported that they had received a PID
- In total, 382 PIDs were reported as having been received across all public authorities
- State government agencies reported the highest number of PIDs followed by Local Health Districts and Local Government
- Of the independent investigating authorities, the ICAC continues to receive the highest number of PIDs, including reports it received under section 11 of the ICAC Act (which imposes a duty on the heads of public authorities to report any matter that may concern possible corrupt conduct to the ICAC).

Under the PID Act, all NSW public authorities must report on a six-monthly basis to the Ombudsman on the number of PIDs they receive.

Under the new *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*, which is due to commence in October 2023, the Ombudsman will be able to publish more comprehensive data on PIDs received, as well as the details of any agencies that fail to submit the required information to the Ombudsman.

Download the [report](#) from the NSW Ombudsman website.

#### Media enquiries contact

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#### Background

The NSW Ombudsman is an independent integrity office that helps people with their complaints about NSW public and community sector agencies, and that investigates serious maladministration.

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* (NSW) provides protection to NSW public officials (whistleblowers) who report serious wrongdoing by a NSW public authority. Serious wrongdoing that can be the subject of a public interest disclosure (PID) includes corrupt conduct, maladministration, or a serious and substantial waste of government money.

The Ombudsman is the lead oversight agency under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*, and its functions include:

- To promote public awareness and understanding of the PID Act
- To issue guidelines and other publications to assist agencies and
- To issues guidelines and other publications to assist NSW public official whistleblowers
- To monitor and audit agencies' compliance with the PID Act
- To make recommendations to the Government about future reform.

In October 2023, the current *NSW Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* will be replaced with the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022 (NSW)*. That new Act includes reforms recommended by the Parliamentary Committee on the Ombudsman, which will enhance the protections available to public sector whistleblowers.

Information about the new Act is available on the [Ombudsman's website](#).

The NSW Ombudsman is also developing new guidelines and training materials for agencies and public officials, which will be released next year in advance of the new Act commencing.