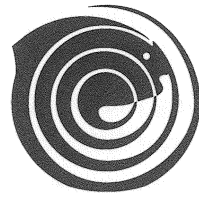


Public interest disclosure policy



FRDC

Executive Director's authorisation:

Effective date: 22 January 2016

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1. PURPOSE

To promote integrity and accountability in the FRDC and the public sector more generally by:

- encouraging and facilitating the disclosure of information by public officials about suspected wrongdoing in the FRDC or the public sector more generally
- ensuring that employees who make public interest disclosures are supported and protected from adverse consequences
- ensuring that disclosures by employees are properly investigated and dealt with.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for this policy resides with the Executive Director.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Definitions - follow link to [Definitions](#)

Acronyms – follow link to [Acronyms](#)

4. RISK CATEGORY

Strategic	Operational	Financial	ICT	People
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION

Primary procedure	Document location or web address
Public interest disclosure procedure	NEMO-29-1168

Relevant documentation	Document location or web address
Code of conduct	NEMO-29-1899
Commonwealth Ombudsman	ombudsman.gov.au
Employee policy	NEMO-29-1826
Employee start and finish procedure	NEMO-29-1618
FRDC website	frdc.com.au
Public interest disclosure Act	PID Act

6. PUBLICATION

This policy is to be made available on the FRDC website.

This policy is not to be made available on the directors' website.

7. BACKGROUND

The public interest disclosure scheme is about removing barriers that prevent people who work in the public sector from speaking up about serious problems that impact on public administration, so as to ensure that problems are identified early, appropriate action is taken, and those who report wrongdoing are protected from reprisal.

The [Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013](#) (PID Act) commenced on 15 January 2014 and promotes the integrity and accountability of the Commonwealth public sector by creating a framework for facilitating the reporting of suspected wrongdoing and ensuring timely and effective investigation of reports.

The PID Act (refer s72 (1) (b) requires the FRDC to:

1. establish procedures to facilitate and deal with public interest disclosures
2. ensure staff are aware of the procedures and the protections available
3. appoint and train authorised officers to receive disclosures
4. ensure disclosures are properly investigated
5. protect staff from detriment, or threats of detriment, if they make a disclosure
6. take appropriate action in response to an investigation report
7. provide information to the Ombudsman or Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security.

The Ombudsman has oversight of public agency decisions about the disclosures they receive and, through its annual reporting to the parliament, will provide transparency and accountability for the operations of the scheme.

As clearly stated in its code of conduct, the FRDC is committed to the highest standards of ethical and accountable conduct.

8. POLICY

For the purposes of the PID Act the:

- Principal Officer (s73) will be the Executive Director
- Authorised Officer (s36) will be the Manager Corporate Services.

The FRDC will:

1. commit to the goals of the Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Act 2013
2. publish the Authorised Officer's contact details on the FRDC's website (<http://frdc.com.au>), along with a statement of commitment to the PID Act goals
3. proactively support the reporting of wrongdoing, the identification of problems, and the fixing of the problems identified
4. ensure disclosures are properly investigated
5. make its employees aware of the PID Act, and the actions they may take under that Act
6. support employees who make a public interest disclosure; including protecting them from detriment if they make a disclosure
7. report annually to the Commonwealth Ombudsman on the operation of the PID Act (s 76)

9. ATTACHMENTS

#	Description
1	Summary of elements of making a disclosure under the PID Act

Attachment 1 – Summary of elements of making a disclosure under the PID Act

