

## **Possible Public Interest Disclosures by parties external to Austin Health**

Complaints, reports or allegations about **improper conduct**, or action against a person in response to making a complaint, report or allegation (**detrimental action**), may be protected disclosures under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012 (Vic) (**PID Act**). Only the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (**IBAC**) can deem a complaint a Public Interest Disclosure. A person who makes a Public Interest Disclosure or cooperates in respect of the investigation of a Public Interest Disclosure (**Participant**) is afforded certain protections under the PID Act.

Austin Health:

- cannot determine whether a complaint is a Public Interest Disclosure (only IBAC can do this); and
- must provide Participants with the protections under the PID Act once notified of a Public Interest Disclosure.

If you are concerned about possible improper conduct at Austin Health, you should contact IBAC.

### **Contact the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission**

Phone - 1300 735 135

Fax - (03) 8635 6444

Post: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins St, Melbourne

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

Note - A person makes a disclosure to IBAC by completing the online form at <https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/reporting-corruption/report/complaints-form>

### ***Detrimental Action may be the subject of a Public Interest Disclosure***

Austin Health is required to ensure that a person who has made a Public Interest Disclosure does not suffer detrimental action because of the complaint. If this were to occur, you could contact IBAC and this could itself be assessed as a Public Interest Disclosure under the PID Act.

### ***IBAC action***

IBAC will assess a complaint and determine if it is a Public Interest Disclosure under the PID Act.

If it is a Public Interest Disclosure, IBAC may:

- investigate the complaint;
- refer the complaint to the Ombudsman (or another agency) to investigate; or
- dismiss the complaint.

### ***Austin Health action***

Austin Health can continue to manage and investigate any complaints made to Austin Health. However, if this is the approach you wish to take, you will not be entitled to the protections available under the PID Act unless the complaint has been deemed a Public Interest Disclosure by IBAC.