

Whistleblower Policy Summary

Overview

LaunchVic is committed to creating and maintaining a working environment in which persons are able to raise concerns regarding Improper Conduct, without fear of reprisal and with the support of LaunchVic.

As a Victorian public entity, LaunchVic complies with the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012 (PID Act)* as amended by the *Integrity and Accountability Legislation Amendment (Public Interest Disclosures, Oversight and Independence) Act 2019*. The PID Act includes a definition of Improper Conduct.

Audience and Application

LaunchVic's Whistleblower Policy is binding on all Directors, Committee Members, employees, agents and contractors of LaunchVic or its Controlled Entities (workplace participants).

The Policy is also for the benefit of all persons who are entitled to make a Public Interest Disclosure (PID) in connection with conduct by LaunchVic or its workplace participants.

Public Interest Disclosures

PIDs are reports, made in accordance with the specific requirements of the PID Act, of information that shows or tends to show, or that the discloser believes on reasonable grounds shows or tends to show:

- a) Improper Conduct by public bodies (such as LaunchVic), public officers (including officers of LaunchVic); or
- b) detrimental action taken by a public officer or public body against a person in reprisal for them (or another person) having made a PID or cooperated with the investigation of a PID.

PIDs may also be made in relation to conduct by a person (not a public officer or public official) whose conduct is adversely affecting the honest performance of public functions by a public body or public officer or is intended to adversely affect their effective performance.

The PID Act provides certain protections for persons making a legitimate PID. To be legally protected as a PID, the report must be made to the appropriate entity required by the PID Act. **PIDs concerning LaunchVic must be made to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC). They cannot be made directly to LaunchVic.**

A PID can be made via IBAC's website at the following link:
<https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/reporting-corruption/report/complaints-form>.

Further information about PIDs can be found in IBAC's Guidelines for handling public interest disclosures - https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/docs/default-source/guidelines/guidelines-for-handling-public-interest-disclosures.pdf?sfvrsn=eb8b6875_14

Disclosures Other Than PIDs

LaunchVic expects its staff, contractors and Directors to call out poor behaviour even if it is below the threshold of Improper Conduct. To this end, LaunchVic has the following channels for anonymous disclosures:

- email - launchvic@stopline.com.au
- website - <http://launchvic.stoplinereport.com/>
- phone - 1300 30 45 50 (in Australia)
- mail - LaunchVic, c/o Stopline, PO Box 403, Diamond Creek, VIC, 3089
- APP - Smart phone APP (free download from Apple iTunes store and Google Play)

Any person making contact via these channels with a disclosure which constitutes a PID will be directed to the appropriate IBAC channel.

LaunchVic's policy for disclosures that are not PIDs includes protection against retaliation for people making disclosures in good faith.

A discloser who knowingly makes a false or vexatious report under this Policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary processes.