

Protected Disclosure



What is a Protected Disclosure?

A Protected Disclosure is a complaint of improper or corrupt conduct, or detrimental action by Hindmarsh Shire Employees or Councillors.

What is the Protected Disclosure Act?

The Protected Disclosure Act 2012 replaces the Whistleblower Act 2001.

The Protected Disclosure Act 2012 enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct within the public sector without fear of reprisal. The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

How does Hindmarsh Shire Council Manage Protected Disclosures?

Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to the aims and objectives of the Protected Disclosure Act. It does not tolerate improper conduct by its employees, officers or members, nor the taking of reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct.

Hindmarsh Shire Council recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices, and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, or conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety or the environment.

The Hindmarsh Shire Council takes seriously its responsibilities to persons who may make a disclosure in respect to improper conduct. This procedure has been established to ensure the confidentiality of any persons making a disclosure and their welfare, are protected. All reasonable steps will be made to protect such persons from any detrimental action in reprisal for making the disclosure. It will also afford natural justice to the person who is the subject of the disclosure.

All correspondence, phone calls and emails from persons making disclosures are referred to the Protected Disclosure Coordinator.

The Protected Disclosure Coordinator will take all necessary steps to ensure that the identity of the person making a protected disclosure and the person who is subject of the disclosure are kept confidential. Where necessary, the Protected Disclosure Coordinator will arrange for appropriate welfare support for the person making a protected disclosure.

How do I Make a Protected Disclosure?

Protected Disclosures may be made by employees or by members of the public.

Part 2 of the Protected Disclosure Act provides that a person may make a disclosure:

- Orally;
- In writing;
- Electronically; or
- Anonymously.

Protected Disclosures may relate to corrupt or improper conduct by:

- The Organisation
- Employees of Hindmarsh Shire Council
- Councillors

Hindmarsh Shire Council can only address disclosures that relate to Hindmarsh Shire Council. Protected Disclosures about Councillors must be addressed by IBAC.

Who Do I Contact?

- Disclosures relating to Council employees should be made to:
Protected Disclosure Coordinator – Director Corporate and Community Services
or
Protected Disclosure Officer – Manager Finance and Customer Service

Postal Address:

PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Telephone: (03) 5391 4444

- Disclosures relating to Councillors must be made directly to:
Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC)

Postal Address:

GP Box 24234
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Telephone: 1300 735 135

Further Information

Further information is available by contacting the Protected Disclosure Coordinator or the Protected Disclosure Officer at Hindmarsh Shire Council.

IBAC Guidelines

For further information and guidance on the new legislation or any other matters, please refer to the IBAC website (www.ibac.vic.gov.au).

- [Protected Disclosure Act 2012](#)

- [IBAC - Guidelines for making and handling protected disclosures](#)
- [IBAC - Guidelines for protected disclosure welfare management.](#)