

Michael Tatham

From: Michael Tatham
Sent: Friday, 16 June 2017 12:01 PM
To: LA Staff
Cc: LA Speaker
Subject: Information for all Staff - Whistleblowers and the correct process for Public Interest Disclosure

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NT
TABLED DOCUMENTS



Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Committee: *Est. notes*
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Tabled By: *Speaker*
Signed: *[Signature]*

Dear Colleagues

It has come to my attention that an employee of the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) associated with this Department (DLA) has provided unauthorised information to a journalist at the NT News which they claim reveals irregularities relating to my official travel and the travel of the Speaker in relation to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) business.

GUIDE FOR 'WHISTLEBLOWERS'

I remind all colleagues that the correct approach is to make a Public Interest Disclosure under the rigorous and independent arrangements in place in the Northern Territory so that any allegations may be properly investigated and alleged wrongdoing is uncovered and addressed.

The Office of the Commissioner for Public Interest Disclosures administers the *Public Information Disclosure Act*. You can make a public interest disclosure by contacting the Office of the Commissioner by phone, email, in person, or by writing to their office. There is an online form available at <https://blowthewhistle.nt.gov.au/contact-us/forms/online-complaint-form>.

The phone number for the Office of the Commissioner is 1800 250 918.

The Commissioner's website provides information about your rights at <https://blowthewhistle.nt.gov.au/reporting/your-rights-if-you-report>. You can also review the process for an investigation <https://blowthewhistle.nt.gov.au/investigation/the-investigation-process> and a related flowchart is of assistance <https://blowthewhistle.nt.gov.au/investigation/investigation-flowchart>.

I encourage all employees with concerns about public administration to review <https://blowthewhistle.nt.gov.au/> and <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/PUBLIC-INTEREST-DISCLOSURE-ACT>.

CODE OF CONDUCT

An NTPS employee who discloses departmental information to another party outside of the Public Interest Disclosure process outlined above is risking, not only a breach of the NTPS and DLA Codes of Conduct, but also a possible contempt of the Legislative Assembly and being found to have committed other offences.

The DLA Code of Conduct is available at [http://uluru.nt.gov.au/lant/ServiceCentre/POLICY Code of Conduct.pdf](http://uluru.nt.gov.au/lant/ServiceCentre/POLICY%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf) and the NTPS Code is at <https://ocpe.nt.gov.au/nt-public-sector-employment/Information-about-ntps-employment/code-of-conduct>. Please ensure you also read, understand and abide by the Media Policy of the DLA at [http://uluru.nt.gov.au/lant/ServiceCentre/Members Entitlements Release to Media.pdf](http://uluru.nt.gov.au/lant/ServiceCentre/Members%20Entitlements%20Release%20to%20Media.pdf).

ACCOUNTABILITY OF CEO/CLERK

I am gladly accountable about my official travel. It is my responsibility to ensure public money is spent for the benefit of the Northern Territory.

As you know from my reports to the DLA monthly staff forums, I have been privileged to travel internationally in my role as Clerk.

My article in the staff magazine *Hear Hear!* in 2016, details when I was invited by the CPA to attend the Post-election Seminar for the 12th National Assembly of Zambia. This was further disclosed at the public hearing of the Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People at https://parliament.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/388964/SCOPP-Public-Hearing-5-December-2016.pdf from page 3 and in my written submission to that Committee https://parliament.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/385365/Submission-No.-2-Clerk-of-the-Legislative-Assembly-of-the-Northern-Territory.pdf from page 6.

It is also a matter of record that, along with my colleague the Clerk from the Legislative Council in Western Australia, I was one of two Australian Region CPA Delegation Secretaries accompanying all Australian CPA Delegates to the 62nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in London during December last year where I also presented a paper to the 52nd General Meeting of the Society of Clerks at the Table in Commonwealth Parliaments on the history and operation of Standing Order 23A. The Society of Clerk's 2016 Report contains information on my presentation. *The Parliamentarian* magazine conference issue also contains information on the 62nd CPC.

<https://issuu.com/theparliamentarian/docs/theparliamentarian2017issueonefinal>

Accountable public administration is very important to us, please consider the correct procedures if you feel you need to make a disclosure about public administration, procedures are in place to assist us report problems and get outcomes.

I also welcome the opportunity to be questioned by the Estimates Committee next week about any aspects of my role administering the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

Regards

MICHAEL TATHAM

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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