



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Accountability and Oversight Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Report on Victoria's oversight agencies

The Victorian Parliament's Accountability & Oversight Committee today tabled in the Parliament its second report on the annual reports of Victorian oversight agencies.

As part of the Committee's legislative reporting requirement, the report examines the 2013-14 annual reports of the Ombudsman, Freedom of Information (FOI) Commissioner and Victorian Inspectorate.

The report covers issues raised in the last financial year and not developments during 2014-15, which will be the subject of the next Committee report expected to be tabled in the Parliament later in 2015.

Mr Neil Angus MP, Chair of the Committee, said "this report aims to strengthen the Victorian integrity regime by identifying areas that work well and aspects that need attention."

Mr Angus also said that "as a key bipartisan Committee in Victoria's integrity system, this report will help ensure these three key oversight agencies continue to uphold the highest standards of performance and accountability in the interests of the Victorian public."

The report makes 8 recommendations to the Victorian Government, including:

- allowing complaints and referrals to the Ombudsman's office to be made by means other than in writing;
- developing a seamless 'one-stop shop' framework to provide a single point of entry for people seeking to make a complaint about a public body;
- reviewing legislative requirements relating to protected disclosures cases in the *Ombudsman Act 1973*;
- ensuring more detailed reporting on the time taken by the FOI Commissioner to undertake FOI reviews;
- calling for greater transparency, with the FOI Commissioner's financial statements to be included in the annual report; and
- supporting the continuation of the FOI Practitioners Forum and the development of training in Alternative Dispute Resolution techniques relating to FOI requests.

For comment on the report, please contact the Chair of the Committee, Mr Neil Angus MP, on (03) 9877 5628.

For copies of the report, visit the Committee's [website](#) or phone (03) 8682 2830.

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