



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on the Integrity
Commission and Statutory Office
Holders

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the effectiveness of transparency arrangements for Members of the Legislative Assembly

Submission number: 003

Submitter: The Parliament of Tasmania

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30 June 2025

Mr Ed Cocks MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission
and Statutory Office Holders
ACT Legislative Assembly
By email: LACommitteeIntegrity@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Transparency arrangements for Members

Thank you for your letters to us dated 29 May 2025 in relation to the ACT Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders inquiry into the effectiveness of transparency arrangements for Members of the Legislative Assembly. The following is a joint response to your questions.

In respect of transparency arrangements for Members of Parliament, the *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996 (Tas)* requires that a register of interests of Members of each House is maintained. The Act requires a Member to lodge a primary return within 3 months after the day on which they take their oath of allegiance, and to lodge an annual return before 1 October every year.

The Act requires the Clerks to publish the register of interests on the parliamentary website and table them in the relevant House. The purpose of the register is to provide a mechanism for Members of Parliament ('Members') to disclose interests that may affect, or may be perceived to affect, the objectivity of their decision making.

In respect of further transparency arrangements such as the publication of diaries, staffing expenditure and travel, there are no specific legislative requirements for Members to generally disclose this information. However, in relation to Ministers we are aware that this information is often disclosed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet as part of routine disclosures under the *Right to Information Act 2009 (Tas)*. See the link below for example:

https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/rti/MPS_routine_disclosure_log

We also note that the following guidelines and policies relating to Ministers may also be of use:

https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/office_of_the_secretary/Executive_Services/guidelines-and-policies

Enquiries in relation to this area are best directed to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

In respect of the register of lobbyists, section 8(e) of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* (Tas) provides that the functions of the Integrity Commission include to establish and maintain codes of conduct and registration systems to regulate contact between persons conducting lobbying activities and certain public officers. The Integrity Commission of Tasmania is responsible for maintaining the register of lobbyists. Information is available on the Integrity Commission's website and you may wish to contact them directly in relation to this matter:

<https://lobbyists.integrity.tas.gov.au/home>

We trust that this is of assistance with your inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Vickers
Clerk of the Legislative Council

Laura Ross
Clerk of the House of Assembly