



30 September 2008

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into the protection of public sector whistleblower employees

Mr Frank Terenzini, Chair of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, announced today that, following the closing date for submissions to its inquiry into the protection of public sector whistleblower employees, the Committee has considered the submissions it received.

Mr Terenzini said, "Evidence taken thus far by the Committee, from the Deputy Ombudsman and the Deputy Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, indicates that the effectiveness of the current legislation that protects whistleblowers, that is the Protected Disclosures Act, is limited and there is no real ownership of the act."

"The evidence given has drawn attention to some pretty fundamental issues about the operation of the legislation", he continued.

"As part of the next stage of its inquiry, the Committee will be hearing from a range of agencies, departments and investigating authorities, to try to focus on the way in which the Protected Disclosures Act works and how effective it is in protecting whistleblowers."

"These departments and agencies will be requested to provide written submissions to the inquiry in advance of their appearance."

Mr Terenzini explained further, "Several of the submissions received were from individuals concerning their own experiences. The Committee will be considering these particular submissions and any related matters following the next stage of hearings."

Further information about the Committee's inquiry is available on the Parliament's website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au or by request from the Secretariat on 9230 2062.

For additional comments, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Frank Terenzini MP, on 0447 112 270.