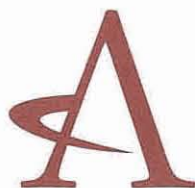
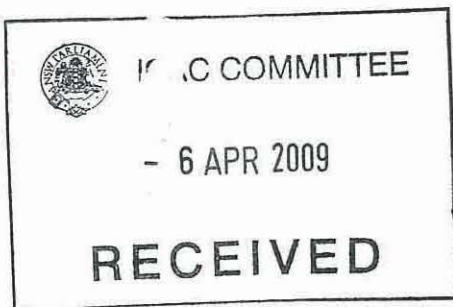


**Submission
No 42**

INQUIRY INTO PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SECTOR WHISTLEBLOWER EMPLOYEES

Organisation: Audit Office of NSW
Name: Mr Peter Achterstraat
Position: Auditor-General
Telephone:
Date received: 6/04/2009



THE AUDIT OFFICE
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

CONTACT NAME
TELEPHONE
OUR REFERENCE **D0907199**
YOUR REFERENCE

Mr Frank Terenzini MP
Chair
Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

2 April 2009

Dear Mr Terenzini

Inquiry into the protection of public sector whistleblower employees

I refer to your letter of 12 March 2009 inviting my comment on the proposals made in the discussion paper.

I am supportive of the proposals made in that paper and I make the following comments in respect of specific proposals:

Proposal	Comment
2	The effective operation of the oversight body discussed in proposal 1 should lead to public sector agencies and local councils having internal policies and procedures that provide a consistent and robust approach to protecting whistleblowers.
5	I read the proposal to relate to the provision of protection only, and on that basis I support both dot points of the proposal. (However, the assessment by investigating and public authorities on whether or not to investigate the complaint should continue to be on the basis of "shows or tends to show" only.)
15	This is good complaints handling procedure.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Peter Achterstraat
Auditor-General