

Response to the recommendations made to the Victorian Government and Victorian Public Sector Commission by the Integrity and Oversight Committee in its *Inquiry into the Education and Prevention Functions of Victoria's Integrity Agencies*

Background

The Victorian Government thanks the Integrity and Oversight Committee for its report and acknowledges the valuable work of the Committee in monitoring and reviewing the performance and functions of the Victorian Inspectorate, the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner, and the Victorian Ombudsman.

Response

One of the Committee's 18 recommendations was directed to government to amend legislation, and one recommendation was directed to the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Government's response to those recommendations is set out in the table below. The Government notes that recommendations were also made to the Victorian Inspectorate, Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner, and the Victorian Ombudsman.

Committee recommendation	Government response
That the <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> be amended to provide the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner with the express power to issue guidelines and other materials on the application and interpretation of the Act (Recommendation 7).	<p>The recommendation is under review.</p> <p>The government is currently considering this recommendation in the context of broader recommendations made by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner regarding the operation of the Act.</p>
That the Victorian Public Sector Commission consider developing an annual ethics and integrity training program, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• promotes the public sector values set out in the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees and Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees of Special Bodies; and• is mandatory for all Victorian public officers and required to be implemented by all Victorian public sector employers (Recommendation 11).	<p>The Victorian Public Sector Commission supports in principle the recommendation.</p> <p>The Commission will commence work in 2023-24 on the design and development of an ethics and integrity training program. Delivery method, content and program scope will be considered as part of the design process.</p>