

Our questions:

1. Where is the government at on its a second stage of reforms, flagged in this June 2023 [media release](#)?
2. Is the government committed to a public interest defence as part of its reforms?
3. Why **hasn't** the government implemented a federal Whistleblower Protection Authority (which was first recommend by a Senate Committee in 1994 and again by a bipartisan parliamentary joint committee in 2017)?

Response from a spokesperson for the Attorney-General:

- In June last year Parliament passed priority amendments to the Public Interest Disclosure Act which ensured immediate improvements to the public sector whistleblower scheme were in place in time for the commencement of the National Anti-Corruption Commission.
 - These were the first improvements to Australia's public sector whistleblower laws since the first laws were introduced by Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus in 2013 under the Gillard Government.
- The Government is currently considering the outcomes of a consultation process undertaken in late 2023 on a second stage of reforms to progress its commitment to strengthen the public sector whistleblowing framework. This includes consideration of a whistleblower protection authority or commissioner.