Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today said that the Territory’s approximately 400 Executive level public servants would not be allowed to hold directorships in private companies that have, or seek to have, contracts with the NT Government.

Ms Martin said that the Northern Territory Public Service (NTPS) Code of Conduct, which requires disclosure of private financial and other business dealings that could give rise to conflict of interest, will be taken a step further by requiring a registration of those details for Executive Officers to be put in writing.

"This new whole-of-government registration is being finalised for introduction shortly and follows the Bansemer review of the Health Department - and a subsequent investigation - that found potential existed for conflict of interest by senior public servants," she said.

"While the Territory’s public servants are hard working and dedicated, the new rules on directorships in private companies makes a clear statement of the standards we expect.

"The NTPS must be open and accountable and, more importantly, be beyond reproach or question by the public today’s initiatives will assist that process.

"It will help avoid conflicts of interest or the perception of a conflict of interest by the public.

"We want to avoid any potential for conflict of image, or unfair practices, that could damage the reputation of a department and its hard working staff."

The Chief Minister said she expected a format for senior public servant management registration would soon be finalised and introduced almost immediately.

"While this may impact on a small number of senior public servants the Government does not believe many people will be adversely affected," she said.

"Regardless, we are absolutely committed to open and accountable Government and this is another important and necessary improvement that must be made."

Ms Martin said that existing provisions, in the NTNS Code of Conduct, adequately covered other areas of the required ethical behaviour of public servants.