AN IMPORTANT STEP IN DEVELOPING ICAC

18 January 2017

The Northern Territory government has taken an important step towards developing an anti-corruption watchdog in the Territory, releasing a discussion paper on whistle-blower protection laws.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Natasha Fyles, is calling for public feedback on the discussion paper.

“Whistle-blower protection will be crucial to the operation of the Territory’s Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC),” Natasha Fyles said.

Whistle-blower protection laws aim to protect people reporting on corrupt behaviour from being sacked, taken to court or being targeted for retribution in other ways.

Reviewing whistle-blower protection laws was a recommendation in the Hon. Brian Martin’s 2016 report on establishing the ICAC.

“The Martin Report provides the framework for ICAC. As a government, we have given in-principle support to 50 of the 52 recommendations of the Martin Report,” Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Natasha Fyles said.

“Delivering ICAC was an election commitment. Large parts of our community lost trust in government,” Natasha Fyles said.

“ICAC will change the culture of the Territory and help protect the community from the misuse of power and authority, which has previously gone unchecked.”

People wanting to participate in this consultation can submit their stories or comments via email (agd.whistleblowerfeedback@nt.gov.au) or through a dedicated website (https://justice.nt.gov.au/attorney-general-and-justice/law/whistleblowerfeedback).

These submissions can be made anonymously.

“Community feedback is vital to developing the Territory’s ICAC,” Natasha Fyles said.
“Our Government is doing what is necessary to create an ICAC that will have the powers and protections to investigate without fear or favour.”

The Government will be accepting submissions until 17 February.

Legislation to establish a Northern Territory ICAC is now being developed, with further community consultations are expected later this year.

Communications Advisor: Laetitia Lemke 0418 973 602