



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVT TAKING STEPS TO RESTORE INTEGRITY TO PUBLIC SERVICE

The NSW Government has begun consultations on the creation of a Public Sector Ethics Act as part of its commitment to restore integrity to the NSW Public Service, Premier Barry O'Farrell said today.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals committed to introduce ethics legislation that would apply to both public servants and ministers to help rebuild public confidence in government in NSW.

The Government has drawn up a draft Ethical Framework for the NSW Public Sector based around the four pillars of integrity, trust, service and accountability.

"We committed to begin this consultation process in our first 100 days and we have delivered," Mr O'Farrell said.

"I am determined to restore integrity to the NSW Public Service – NSW deserves the best qualified and most professional public service in the nation.

"A NSW Government website will encourage people to have their say about public sector ethics.

"We want to hear from individuals who are users and customers of public services, taxpayers, and individual public servants across the occupations in the public sector."

Consultation has already been held with key stakeholders including Government agencies, the Auditor-General, NSW Business Chamber, the Council of Social Service NSW, National Disability Services, and the NSW Branch of the Institute of Public Administration Australia. Prof. Peter Shergold, Chairman of the Public Service Commission Advisory Board, has contributed to the framework.

Consultation is also planned with Unions NSW and briefings will be held for the Independent Commission Against Corruption and NSW Ombudsman.

"The Public Sector Ethics Act will enshrine this Ethical Framework in legislation and ensure all public servants are aware of their responsibilities to exercise judgment and be accountable for the decisions they make," Mr O'Farrell said.

“The feedback gathered during the consultation process will further refine the Ethical Framework and the development of the Bill itself.

“We have to get rid of the politicisation and scapegoat mentality which has been a feature of the NSW public service over the last decade.”