



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Acting Deputy Commissioner

Ref: 26/438-02

16 July 2026

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General

BY EMAIL: **Section 47F - Personal privacy**

Dear Attorney

DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my declaration of material personal interests that relate to the affairs of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (Commission), for the purposes of section 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth) (NACC Act), pursuant to which I must disclose to you any material personal interest that I have that relate to the affairs of the Commission. In accordance with that requirement, I disclose the following matters.

No material financial interests to declare

I do not have any financial interests that are likely to relate to the affairs of the Commission.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[Redacted content]

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ABN 47 446 409 542

Section 47F - Personal privacy

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Relationships – associations

As a long standing Commonwealth public servant, I have professional relationships with people who are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. This will be particularly the case for current and former Health Ministers, Secretaries and senior officials from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. I have also had oversight of a number of Health portfolio agencies, including professional working relationships with statutory office holders (SOHs) and senior officials and, in some cases, board chairs and members for the following agencies/SOHs:

- Australian Centre for Disease Control
- Australian Digital Health Agency
- Australian Organ and Tissue Authority
- National Blood Authority
- National Rural Health Commissioner
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

I do not have any other family members or close personal friends who are members of the Australian Public Service or Commonwealth Parliament.

Other matters

It is always possible that a matter that could potentially affect the interests of some other person known to me could come before the Commission. Should that occur, I would in each case consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and ensure the conflict is properly managed.

Conclusion

I note that there is a continuing duty to disclose material personal interests relating to the affairs of the Commission. Should I become aware of any material personal interest that relates to the affairs of the Commission, I will disclose it to you in accordance with the requirements in section 247 of the NACC Act.

In accordance with the Commission's Protocol, *Disclosure of Interests by Statutory Office Holders* (issued by the CEO on 19 June 2026 under rule 16 of the *Public Governance*,

Performance and Accountability Rule 2014), I will provide a copy of this disclosure to each of the other NACC SOHs and a meeting will be convened to discuss the declaration.

I would be happy to discuss this letter with you or your office. I can be contacted directly on

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Yours sincerely

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Penny Shakespeare

Acting Deputy Commissioner



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Deputy
Commissioner

Our ref: 26/0438-02

13 July 2026

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General

BY EMAIL: **Section 47F - Personal privacy**

Dear Attorney,

DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my declaration of material personal interests that relate to the affairs of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (Commission), for the purposes of section 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth), pursuant to which I must disclose to you any material personal interest that I have that relate to the affairs of the Commission. In accordance with that requirement, I disclose the following matters.

No material financial interests to declare

I do not have financial interests that are likely to relate to the affairs of the Commission.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Should any of these financial arrangements or shareholdings relate to the affairs of the Commission or the broader Commonwealth government, whether actual or perceived, I will declare that interest in accordance with the Commission's procedures and ensure that the conflict is properly managed.

Relationships – associations

As a long standing Commonwealth public servant, I have professional relationships with people who are within the jurisdiction of the Commission, most notably people – including senior officials and Agency Heads – from the following agencies with whom I had an extended employment relationship:

The Australian Public Service Commission

The National Disability Insurance Agency

The Attorney-General's Department

I have had limited professional contact with a number of current and former parliamentarians who were the portfolio Ministers for the Departments and Agencies in which I worked.

From 2003 – 2006 I was national security adviser to two Attorneys-General, Daryl Williams AM KC and Philip Ruddock AO.

I do not have any ongoing contact with any of these parliamentarians.

Other matters

I have no family members or close personal friends who are members of the Australian Public Service or Commonwealth Parliament. It is always possible that a matter that could potentially affect the interests of some other person known to me could come before the Commission. Should that occur, I would in each case consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and ensure the conflict is properly managed.

Conclusion

I note that there is a continuing duty to disclose material personal interests relating to the affairs of the Commission. Should I become aware of any material personal interest that

relates to the affairs of the Commission, I will disclose it to you in accordance with the requirements in section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth).

In accordance with the National Anti-Corruption Commission's Protocol, *Disclosure of Interests by Statutory Office Holders*, I will provide a copy of this disclosure to each of the other Statutory Office Holders and a meeting of the Statutory Office Holders will be convened to discuss the document.

I would be happy to discuss this letter with you or your office. I can be contacted directly on

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Yours sincerely,

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Jamie Lowe
Deputy Commissioner



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Deputy Commissioner

Ref: 26#5032DOC

9 March 2026

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General

BY EMAIL: Section 47F - Personal privacy

Dear Attorney,

DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my declaration of material personal interests that relate to the affairs of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (Commission), for the purposes of section 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth), pursuant to which I must disclose to you any material personal interest that I have that relates to the affairs of the Commission. In accordance with that requirement, I disclose the following matters.

My last declaration to you was made on 26 March 2025 following my acceptance of an offer to become an honorary fellow of the University of Western Australia (UWA).

No material financial interests to declare

I do not have financial interests that are likely to relate to the affairs of the Commission.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Where any of these financial arrangements or shareholdings relate to the affairs of the Commission or the broader Commonwealth government, whether actual or perceived, I will

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P. Section 47F - Personal privacy
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declare that interest in accordance with Commission's policies and ensure that conflict is appropriately managed.

Work and Employment

Before being appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Commission, I was appointed on 7 May 2019 to be the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) **Section 47F - Personal privacy**

[REDACTED]. Therefore, I have professional relationships and some friendships with people who are within the jurisdiction of the Commission or could do work on behalf of the Commission. To ensure transparency of these relationships, I outline my relationships with Commonwealth officials and current and former parliamentarians below.

Commonwealth Officials

At the AHRC, I had contact with many senior Commonwealth officials, including agency heads, from the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Social Services, the National Disability Insurance Agency, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards Commission, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and the Arts and the Department of Health. Many of these interactions were related to the Covid-19 pandemic response, to provide briefings on human rights issues relating to people with disability in Australia or assist in the formulation of disability policy and/or legislation in Australia. Often, members of civil society would be present at meetings.

Due to my former role at the AHRC, I would have a perceived conflict of interest with any referral relating to actual or former staff members or statutory officeholders of the AHRC. If, in the future, any were to be the subject of a referral to the Commission, I would declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

I worked closely with the then Age Discrimination Commissioner at the AHRC, Ms Kay Patterson AO (who is a former parliamentarian), and have met with her four times since she retired on 28 July 2023. If in the future she were the subject of a referral to the Commission, I would not participate in the decision-making process.

For other actual or former Australian Public Service members I have interacted with, should matters potentially affecting the interests of any of them come before the Commission, I will and have attempted to consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Contacts with current and former parliamentarians

I have had limited professional contact with a number of current and former parliamentarians and know some current and former parliamentarians from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession. In particular:

- Ms Michaelia Cash, who was Attorney-General for a period when I worked at the AHRC, and I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Ms Kate Chaney, the member for Curtin, who I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.

- Mr Andrew Charlton, the member for Parramatta, who was a student at the University of Oxford when I studied there.
- Mr Mark Dreyfus KC, when he was Shadow Attorney-General, and more recently Attorney-General, when I worked at the AHRC and later the Commission.
- Senator Varun Ghosh, who I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Mr Matthew Keogh, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Former Senator Kay Patterson, who was the Age Discrimination Commissioner when I worked at the AHRC.
- Mr Christian Porter, the former Attorney-General, who was Attorney-General when I was appointed to the AHRC, and I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Senator Linda Reynolds, who was Minister for the NDIS for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Ms Amanda Rishworth, who was the Minister for Social Services for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Mr Stuart Robert, who was Minister for the NDIS for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Senator Anne Ruston, who was the Minister for Social Services for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Mr Bill Shorten, who was Minister for the NDIS and Shadow Minister for the NDIS when I worked at the AHRC.
- Senator Jordon Steele-John, Disability Spokesperson for the Greens' political party when I worked at the AHRC.

Aside from Ms Patterson, I do not have any ongoing contact with any of the parliamentarians listed above. At the AHRC, I would rarely meet with current parliamentarians. The vast majority of the meetings I attended were held online with Departmental staff and not parliamentarians.

Should matters potentially affecting the interests of any of these current and former parliamentarians otherwise come before the Commission, I would consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Honorary UWA Fellowship

In March 2025, I accepted an offer to become an honorary fellow of UWA. This fellowship is hosted by UWA's Law School. There is no remuneration associated with the fellowship or requirement to undertake any form of teaching or research. It is possible, but entirely optional,

to supervise students and apply for research grants. I consulted with the Commission's Integrity and Risk team before accepting the role. The team informed me I was able to accept the role. UWA is not a Commonwealth agency under the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act* but receives Commonwealth funds and participates in several Commonwealth programs. There are also obligations that honorary and adjunct staff at UWA must comply with when using their adjunct title under UWA's Code of Conduct and other policies.

Should matters potentially affecting the interests of UWA otherwise come before the Commission, I would consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Other matters

I have no family members or close personal friends who are members of the Australian Public Service or Commonwealth Parliament. It is always possible that a matter that could potentially affect the interests of some other person known to me could come before the Commission. Should that occur, I would in each case consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and, if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

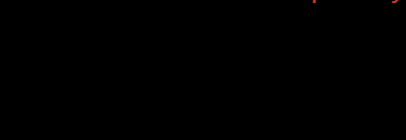
Conclusion

I note that there is a continuing duty to disclose material personal interests relating to the affairs of the Commission. Should I become aware of any material personal interest that relates to the affairs of the Commission, I will disclose it to you in accordance with the requirements in section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act*.

I would be happy to discuss this letter with you or your office. I can be contacted directly on
Section 47F - Personal privacy

Yours sincerely,

Section 47F - Personal privacy



Ben Gauntlett
Deputy Commissioner



Australian Government
National Anti-Corruption Commission

Ref:

7 August 2023

Hon Mark Dreyfus KC, MP
Attorney-General
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Attorney-General,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my annual declaration of material personal interests that relate to the affairs of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (**NACC**).

Under s 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and s 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022*, I must disclose to you any material personal interests that relate to the affairs of the NACC. I disclose the following matters to you in accordance with that requirement.

Financial Matters

Section 47F - Personal privacy [REDACTED].

Section 47F - Personal privacy [REDACTED]

Section 47F - Personal privacy [REDACTED]

Section 47F - Personal privacy [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Where any of these financial arrangements or shareholdings relate to the affairs of the NACC or the broader Commonwealth government, whether actual or perceived, I will declare that interest in accordance with NACC's policies and ensure that conflict is appropriately managed.

Work and Employment

Before being appointed Deputy Commissioner of the NACC, I was the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission [REDACTED]

I have professional [REDACTED]

relationships and some friendships with people who are within the jurisdiction of the NACC or could do work on behalf of the NACC.

If an allegation were made to the NACC or a decision to engage someone by the NACC in relation to someone who I have a conflict of interest, whether actual or perceived, I will declare that interest in accordance with NACC's policies and ensure that conflict is appropriately managed.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I note that this duty to disclose is an ongoing duty and should I become aware during this year of any material personal interest that relates to the affairs of the NACC, I will disclose it to you in accordance with the requirements in section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022*.

I would be happy to discuss this letter with you or your office. I can be contacted directly on

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Yours sincerely,

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[REDACTED]

Ben Gauntlett
Deputy Commissioner



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Deputy Commissioner

Ref: 26#16257DOC

22 July 2026

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General

BY EMAIL: **Section 47F - Personal privacy**

Dear Attorney,

DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my declaration of material personal interests that relate to the affairs of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (Commission), for the purposes of section 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth), pursuant to which I must disclose to you any material personal interest that I have that relate to the affairs of the Commission. In accordance with that requirement, I disclose the following matters.

My last declaration to you was made on 9 March 2026.

No material financial interests to declare

I do not have financial interests that are likely to relate to the affairs of the Commission.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[Redacted content]

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[Redacted content]

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Section 47F - Personal privacy - Section 47E - Certain operations of NACC

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Section 47F - Personal privacy

Where any of these financial arrangements or shareholdings relate to the affairs of the Commission or the broader Commonwealth government, whether actual or perceived, I will declare that interest in accordance with Commission's policies and ensure that conflict is appropriately managed.

Relationships – associations

I have no family members or close personal friends who are members of the Australian Public Service or Commonwealth Parliament.

Before being appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Commission, I was appointed on 7 May 2019 to be the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) **Section 47F - Personal privacy**

Therefore, I have professional relationships and some friendships with people who are within the jurisdiction of the Commission or could do work on behalf of the Commission. To ensure transparency of these relationships, I outline my relationships with Commonwealth officials and current and former parliamentarians below.

Commonwealth Officials

At the AHRC, I had contact with many senior Commonwealth officials, including agency heads, from the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Social Services, the National Disability Insurance Agency, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards Commission, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and the Arts and the Department of Health and Aged Care. Many of these interactions were related to the Covid-19 pandemic response, to provide briefings on human rights issues relating to people with disability in Australia or assist in the formulation of disability policy and/or legislation in Australia. Often, members of civil society would be present at meetings.

Due to my former role at the AHRC, I would have a perceived conflict of interest with any referral relating to actual or former staff members or statutory officeholders of the AHRC. If, in the future, any were to be the subject of a referral to the Commission, I would declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

I worked closely with the then Age Discrimination Commissioner at the AHRC, Ms Kay Patterson AO (who is a former parliamentarian), and have met with her four times since she

retired on 28 July 2023. If in the future she were the subject of a referral to the Commission, I would not participate in the decision-making process.

For other actual or former Australian Public Service members I have interacted with, should matters potentially affecting the interests of any of them come before the Commission, I will and have attempted to consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Contacts with current and former parliamentarians

I have had limited professional contact with a number of current and former parliamentarians and know some current and former parliamentarians from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession. In particular:

- Ms Michaelia Cash, who was Attorney-General for a period when I worked at the AHRC, and I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Ms Kate Chaney, the member for Curtin, who I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Mr Andrew Charlton, the member for Parramatta, who was a student at the University of Oxford when I studied there.
- Mr Mark Dreyfus KC, when he was Shadow Attorney-General, and more recently Attorney-General, when I worked at the AHRC and later the Commission.
- Senator Varun Ghosh, who I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Mr Matthew Keogh, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Former Senator Kay Patterson, who was the Age Discrimination Commissioner when I worked at the AHRC.
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- Ms Amanda Rishworth, who was the Minister for Social Services for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Mr Stuart Robert, who was Minister for the NDIS for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Senator Anne Ruston, who was the Minister for Social Services for a period when I worked at the AHRC.

- Mr Bill Shorten, who was Minister for the NDIS and Shadow Minister for the NDIS when I worked at the AHRC.
- Senator Jordon Steele-John, Disability Spokesperson for the Greens' political party when I worked at the AHRC.

Aside from Ms Patterson, I do not have any ongoing contact with any of the parliamentarians listed above. At the AHRC, I would rarely meet with current parliamentarians. Most of the meetings I attended were held online with Departmental staff and not parliamentarians.

Should matters potentially affecting the interests of any of these current and former parliamentarians otherwise come before the Commission, I would consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[REDACTED]

Honorary UWA Fellowship

In March 2025, I accepted an offer to become an honorary fellow of UWA. This fellowship is hosted by UWA's Law School. There is no remuneration associated with the fellowship or requirement to undertake any form of teaching or research. It is possible, but entirely optional, to supervise students and apply for research grants. I consulted with the Commission's Integrity and Risk team before accepting the role. The team informed me I was able to accept the role. UWA is not a Commonwealth agency under the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act* but receives Commonwealth funds and participates in several Commonwealth programs. There are also obligations that honorary and adjunct staff at UWA must comply with when using their adjunct title under UWA's Code of Conduct and other policies.

Should matters potentially affecting the interests of UWA otherwise come before the Commission, I would consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Other matters

It is always possible that a matter that could potentially affect the interests of some other person known to me could come before the Commission. Should that occur, I would in each case consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and ensure the conflict is properly managed.

Conclusion

I note that there is a continuing duty to disclose material personal interests relating to the affairs of the Commission. Should I become aware of any material personal interest that relates to the affairs of the Commission, I will disclose it to you in accordance with the requirements in section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act*.

In accordance with the Commission's Protocol, *Disclosure of Interests by Statutory Office Holders* (issued by the CEO on 19 June 2026 under rule 16 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*), I will provide a copy of this disclosure to each of the other statutory office holders and a meeting of office holders will be convened to discuss the declaration.

I would be happy to discuss this letter with you or your office. I can be contacted directly on

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Yours sincerely,

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Ben Gauntlett

Deputy Commissioner



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Deputy Commissioner

14 October 2024

The Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP
Attorney-General

BY EMAIL: Section 47F - Personal privacy

Dear Attorney,

DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my declaration of material personal interests that relate to the affairs of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (Commission), for the purposes of s 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and s 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth), pursuant to which I must disclose to you any material personal interest that I have that relate to the affairs of the Commission. In accordance with that requirement, I disclose the following matters.

Financial MattersSection 47F - Personal privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Where any of these financial arrangements or shareholdings relate to the affairs of the Commission or the broader Commonwealth government, whether actual or perceived, I will declare that interest in accordance with Commission's policies and ensure that conflict is appropriately managed.

Work and Employment

Before being appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Commission, I was the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission Section 47F - Personal privacy

[REDACTED]. I have professional relationships and some friendships with people who are within the jurisdiction of the Commission or could do work on behalf of the Commission.

If an allegation were made to the Commission or a decision to engage someone by the Commission in relation to someone who I have a conflict of interest, whether actual or perceived, I will declare that interest in accordance with Commission's policies and ensure that conflict is appropriately managed.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I note that this duty to disclose is an ongoing duty and should I become aware during this year of any material personal interest that relates to the affairs of the Commission, I will disclose it to you in accordance with the requirements in section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth).

I would be happy to discuss this letter with you or your office. I can be contacted directly on Section 47F - Personal privacy

Yours sincerely,

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[REDACTED]

Ben Gauntlett
Deputy Commissioner



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Deputy Commissioner

26 March 2025

The Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP
Attorney-General

BY EMAIL: **Section 47F - Personal privacy**

Dear Attorney,

DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my declaration of material personal interests that relate to the affairs of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (Commission), for the purposes of section 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth), pursuant to which I must disclose to you any material personal interest that I have that relate to the affairs of the Commission. In accordance with that requirement, I disclose the following matters.

My last declaration to you was made on 14 November 2024. Following consultation with Commission staff, I have revised the previous declaration provided to you to disclose that I have accepted an Honorary Fellowship with the University of Western Australia (UWA) earlier this month. The details of this Honorary Fellowship are below. I have also made some minor changes to reflect changes in financial interests and to clarify the nature of my relationships with Commonwealth officials.

No material financial interests to declare

I do not have financial interests that are likely to relate to the affairs of the Commission.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[Redacted content]

Section 47F - Personal privacy

Work and Employment

Before being appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Commission, I was appointed on 7 May 2019 to be the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Section 47F - Personal privacy

Therefore, I have professional relationships and some friendships with people who are within the jurisdiction of the Commission or could do work on behalf of the Commission. To ensure transparency of these relationships, I outline my relationships with Commonwealth officials and current and former parliamentarians below.

Commonwealth Officials

At the AHRC, I had contact with many senior Commonwealth officials, including agency heads, from the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Social Services, the National Disability Insurance Agency, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and the Arts and the Department of Health. Many of these interactions were related to the Covid-19 pandemic response, to provide briefings on human rights issues relating to people with disability in Australia or assist in the formulation of disability policy and/or legislation in Australia. Often, members of civil society would be present at meetings.

Due to my former role at the AHRC, I would have a perceived conflict of interest with any referral relating to actual or former staff or statutory officeholders of the AHRC. If, in the future, any were to be the subject of a referral to the Commission, I would declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

I worked closely with the then Age Discrimination Commissioner at the AHRC, Ms Kay Patterson AO (who is a former parliamentarian), and have met with her three times since she retired on 28 July 2023. If in the future she were the subject of a referral to the Commission, I would not participate in the decision-making process.

For other actual or former Australian Public Service members I have interacted with, should matters potentially affecting the interests of any of them come before the Commission, I will and have attempted to consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Contacts with current and former parliamentarians

I have had limited professional contact with a number of current and former parliamentarians and know some current and former parliamentarians from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession. In particular:

- Ms Michaelia Cash, who was Attorney-General for a period when I worked at the AHRC, and I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Ms Kate Chaney, the member for Curtin, who I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Mr Andrew Charlton, the member for Parramatta, who was a student at the University of Oxford when I studied there.
- Senator Varun Ghosh, who I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Mr Matthew Keogh, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Former Senator Kay Patterson, who was the Age Discrimination Commissioner when I worked at the AHRC.
- Mr Christian Porter, the former Attorney-General, who was Attorney-General when I was appointed to the AHRC, and I know from growing up in Western Australia and working in the legal profession.
- Senator Linda Reynolds, who was Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Ms Amanda Rishworth, who was the Minister for Social Services for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Mr Stuart Robert, who was Minister for the NDIS for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Senator Anne Ruston, who was the Minister for Social Services for a period when I worked at the AHRC.
- Mr Bill Shorten, who was Minister for the NDIS and Shadow Minister for the NDIS when I worked at the AHRC.
- Senator Jordon Steele-John, Disability Spokesperson for the Greens' political party when I worked at the AHRC.
- Yourself, when you were Shadow Attorney-General, and more recently Attorney-General, when I worked at the AHRC.

Aside from Ms Patterson, I do not have any ongoing contact with any of the parliamentarians listed above. At the AHRC, I would rarely meet with current parliamentarians. The vast majority of meetings were held with Departmental staff and not parliamentarians.

Should matters potentially affecting the interests of any of these current and former parliamentarians otherwise come before the Commission, I would consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Section 47F - Personal privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Section 47F - Personal privacy



Honorary UWA Fellowship

As noted above, earlier this month, I accepted an offer to become a fellow of UWA. This fellowship is hosted by UWA's Law School. There is no remuneration associated with the fellowship or requirement to undertake any form of teaching or research. It is possible, but entirely optional, to supervise students and apply for research grants. I have consulted with the Commission's Integrity and Risk team who informed me I was able to accept the role. UWA is not a Commonwealth agency under the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act* but receives Commonwealth funds and participates in several Commonwealth programs. There are obligations that Honorary and adjunct staff at UWA must comply with when using their adjunct title under UWA's Code of Conduct and other policies.

Should matters potentially affecting the interests of UWA otherwise come before the Commission, I would consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Other matters

I have no family members or close personal friends who are members of the Australian Public Service or Parliament. It is always possible that a matter that could potentially affect the interests of some other person known to me could come before the Commission. Should that occur, I would in each case consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and, if so, declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it.

Conclusion

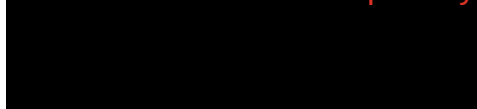
I note that there is a continuing duty to disclose material personal interests relating to the affairs of the Commission. Should I become aware of any material personal interest that relates to the affairs of the Commission, I will disclose it to you in accordance with the requirements in section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act*.

I would be happy to discuss this letter with you or your office. I can be contacted directly on

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Yours sincerely,

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Ben Gauntlett
Deputy Commissioner