

# Changes to Chapter 4 of the *Integrity Act 2009*: What government and opposition representatives need to know

The *Integrity Act 2009* (Qld) (**the Act**) has been amended by the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (Qld). This fact sheet outlines the key changes government and opposition representatives should be aware of.

## What's new

The practice of 'dual hatting' is prohibited.

Education and training will be provided for government and opposition representatives about the operation of Chapter 4 (Lobbying activity).

Former representatives must provide a statement about their 'official dealings'.

New information from lobbyist applicants is to be published on the Lobbying Register.

## Dual hatting is prohibited

The new provisions of Chapter 4 of the Act prohibit the practice of 'dual hatting'<sup>1</sup>. A person cannot wear the hats of both lobbyist and political campaigner at the same time or consecutively (in particular circumstances).

The new dual hatting laws mean:

- A person is disqualified from being a registered lobbyist if they perform a **substantial role** in the election campaign of a political party.
- A registered lobbyist who intends to perform a substantial role in an election campaign must immediately give the Queensland Integrity Commissioner a notice stating their intention.
- A person who plays a substantial role in an election campaign of a winning political party, and who was a registered lobbyist at any time during the term of government leading to the election, is disqualified as a registered lobbyist during the new term of government (i.e. for the following four years). However, they can apply to be a registered lobbyist if the political party did not win the election.

For further information about dual hatting, and for the definitions of relevant terms, refer to [Fact Sheet – New laws prohibit lobbyists dual hatting in Queensland](#).

## Training for government and opposition representatives

The Integrity Commissioner now has a statutory function to provide education and training to government and opposition representatives about the operation of Chapter 4 of the Integrity Act:

- Government representatives are the premier, ministers, assistant ministers, councillors, public sector officers, ministerial staff and assistant minister staff.
- Opposition representatives are the leader of the opposition, the deputy leader of the opposition, and staff in the office of the leader of the opposition.

Representatives will be contacted in due course about this.

## Former representatives must provide a statement about their 'official dealings'

The Act still prohibits former senior government and opposition representatives from lobbying for a client for payment or reward within two years of their leaving their role as a representative.

'Former senior government representatives' are individuals who held, but no longer hold, any of the following offices:

- premier
- minister
- assistant minister
- councillor
- ministerial staff member
- assistant ministerial staff member
- public sector officer, such as chief executive, senior executive or senior executive equivalent.

1. The changes relating to dual hatting took effect in April 2024, while other changes to the Act will apply from 28 May 2024.

'Former Opposition representatives' are individuals who held, but no longer hold, any of the following offices:

- leader of the opposition
- deputy leader of the opposition
- staff member in the office of the leader of the opposition.

The prohibition aims to ensure that former representatives are unable to gain inappropriate personal benefit, by using information they gained through their previous roles, in areas for which they previously had some official responsibility.

Former representatives applying to become a registered lobbyist will be required to give the Integrity Commissioner a statement about their official dealings in the two years prior to leaving office.

The Act defines 'official dealings' as any of the following dealings that a person engaged in as part of their ordinary duties on a regular basis:

- government or opposition business or activities
- negotiations, briefings, contracts and the making or receipt of representations relating to government or opposition business or activities.

## Statements about official dealings will be published on the Lobbying Register

Any registered lobbyist who was a former representative will have their statement about their official dealings published on the Lobbying Register.

Government and opposition representatives, if approached by a lobbyist, will be able to check any lobbyist's statement on the Lobbying Register to satisfy themselves that, by communicating with the lobbyist, they will not permit the lobbyist to breach the prohibition on lobbying in relation to official dealings.

## Further information

Please visit [www.integrity.qld.gov.au](http://www.integrity.qld.gov.au) to access new publications and announcements.

You can also follow us at [Queensland Integrity Commissioner's LinkedIn](#) or [sign up](#) to our email subscription service to get the latest news and updates from the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner.

If you have questions about the new lobbying regulations, you can get in touch by:

- calling us on 3003 2888
- emailing us at [integrity.commissioner@integrity.com.au](mailto:integrity.commissioner@integrity.com.au).