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What is a whistleblower policy?

A whistleblower is someone with inside knowledge of misconduct or illegal activity occurring in an organisation who discloses that information to an authority or to the public. Whistleblower policies exist to outline how such disclosures may be made, how organisations will manage them, and what protections are in place for whistleblowers. AUT's Whistleblower Policy is available on the website to [download here](#).

Why does AUT have a whistleblower policy?

The purpose of AUT's Whistleblower Policy is 'To encourage disclosures of misconduct or an inappropriate state of affairs within the Australian University of Theology (AUT) and to protect whistleblowers from adverse consequences arising from the making of a disclosure.' Since 1 January 2020, the AUT is required to have a whistleblower policy under the [Corporations Act 2001 \(Cth\)](#) (in particular, see [Part 9.4AAA Section 1317AAB](#)).

Who does it apply to?

A disclosure can only be made under the policy by an 'eligible whistleblower'. Section 5.1.2 of the policy states who may belong to this category. Note that eligible whistleblowers may be external to the AUT (i.e. not working in the AUT Office) and can include persons employed by an affiliated college. In all cases, the disclosure must be about the AUT Ltd and not only about an affiliated college. AUT students are not eligible whistleblowers unless they also belong to one of the categories in section 5.1.2.

What kinds of matters can be disclosed under the policy?

Section 5.1.6 of the policy outlines the kinds of activities or states of affairs that may be disclosed under the policy. Apart from the stated exceptions, personal work-related grievances are *not* covered by the policy. Such matters would be addressed under staff grievance policies. AUT's Staff Grievance Policy is available on the website to [download here](#).

How does someone make a disclosure?

A range of 'eligible recipients' of disclosures are stated in section 5.1.13 of the policy, including the AUT Vice-Chancellor, directors on the AUT Council, the AUT Visitor, as well as some persons external to the AUT and government authorities. AUT has a web-based form to make disclosures to persons internal to the AUT. Disclosures can be made anonymously. The form can be accessed on the AUT website at Contact > Whistleblower Disclosure, or at: <https://www.aut.edu.au/whistleblower-disclosure/>.

How can I get more information?

For more information contact the AUT Vice-Chancellor (vc@aut.edu.au / +612 9262 7890).