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Transparency International New Zealand

Public Service Act a Milestone

The New Zealand public sector takes a positive step toward transparency and accountability with the new Public Service Act 2020 that came into force on 10 August.

The Act enables New Zealand's public sector to modernise the way it works allowing it to operate with common purpose, principles, and values. It encourages inter agency cooperation around priority issues, while fostering service delivery for New Zealanders.

"This is an important milestone for New Zealand and the world - a real exemplar of what a public sector should look like," says Suzanne Snively, Chair of Transparency International New Zealand.

The new Act spells out, for the first time in New Zealand law, the purpose of our public service, with an emphasis on the fundamental characteristic that unifies and motivates public servants in their work.

"The new Act replaces the State Sector Act 1988 and aims to modernise the public service while reaffirming its purpose, principles and values. This is an historic moment that marks a new era for the public service and is another step towards our vision of a unified public service that can more effectively join up around the needs of the people we serve," says Public Service Commissioner, Peter Hughes.

TINZ supports the principles of the Act that are setting a world standard. It is reserving judgment about implementation. Can the public sector work with delegated authority based on trust or will too much power be held by the new public service commission?"

Public servants do what they do because they want to make a difference for New Zealanders and New Zealand. The spirit of service that public servants embody every day when they come to work is now underpinned by law.

Background information for journalists

1. Media Contact

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2. About Transparency International

Transparency International is a global civil society coalition based in Berlin, leading the fight against corruption. It compiles a number of measures of different aspects of corruption including the Corruption Perceptions Index, the Global Corruption Barometer, and the Bribe Payers Index. Information on Transparency International can be found at www.transparency.org.

3. About the New Zealand chapter of Transparency International

The local chapter of Transparency International works to actively promote the highest levels of transparency, accountability, integrity and public participation in government and civil society in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Find TINZ at www.transparency.org.nz.

Transparency International New Zealand has several projects designed to support greater integrity. These can be viewed in our [Annual Report](#), and include

- National Integrity System Assessment, a risk assessment of the pillars of democracy
- Development of a Financial Integrity Systems Assessment Tool, for use with the financial sector;
- Leaders Integrity forums for senior public leaders
- Submissions and advocacy
- Thought leadership through communications and events.

Chief Executive Officer

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