Users can login to make a disclosure, assess a disclosure, check the status of their notifications or assessments, and view a history of their past disclosures or assessments.

An automated email reminder system reminds users when they have outstanding notifications that need to be assessed.

A full online audit trail of all processes undertaken is maintained in the system.

For further information, please go to the Conflicts of Interest / Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality web page.

NOTE: The successful creation of this system was only possible through the highly dedicated and collaborative, client-focused efforts of the CITS development team (under the leadership of Marcus Twine) who worked closely with the ISU to produce a top quality software product. Many thanks to all involved!
Complaint Data— Quarter 4 and Full Year 2016

The ISU collects and reports on complaint data on a quarterly, rolling 13 months, and end of financial year (12 months) basis:

1. For the three months ended 31 Dec 2016:
   - 50 matters which met the University’s definition of complaint were registered.
   - 68% of complaints came from students and 22% from staff.
   - As usual, Teaching and General Misconduct-related complaints dominated the qtr.
   - The Faculties were responsible for addressing 54% of complaints received. There was also a 52% drop in the number of complaints received by Faculties between qtr 3 and qtr 4.
2. For the 12 months ended 31 Dec 2016:
   - 258 matters which met the University’s definition of complaint were registered.
   - 59% of complaints came from students and 25% from staff.
   - Of the 151 complaints raised by students, 46 (or around one in every three student complaints) concerned Teaching.
   - Of the 64 complaints raised by staff, 45 (70%) concerned staff (academic, serious or general) misconduct.
   - Around one in every two complaints received in 2016 (54%) were assigned to the four Faculties (140) to be addressed. If Open Universities Australia (OUA) student complaints are included, then the figure for 2016 increases to 158 (61%).
   - There appears to have been an overall downward movement in complaint numbers per comparable quarter between 2015 and 2016:

![Complaint Data Graph]

Public Sector Commission (PSC) Review of Curtin University

The Corruption, Crime and Misconduct (CCM) Act, which came into operation on 1 July 2015, requires public authorities (such as Curtin) to manage and notify misconduct. Misconduct that satisfies the definitions in the CCM Act must be appropriately notified to the Corruption and Crime Commission (for serious misconduct) or to the PSC (for minor misconduct).

After a year of operation under the revised notification and reporting arrangements, the Commissioner of the PSC considered it appropriate to evaluate aspects of the culture, leadership, systems and processes used within public authorities to manage misconduct. An evaluation was subsequently undertaken to build an understanding about the nature and maturity of controls. Curtin was one of 12 agencies evaluated. In relation to these strategies, Curtin University examples were featured in nine (9) separate areas of the report.

The Conflicted Researcher

For researchers, a conflict of interest may arise where a competing private interest compromises, or has the appearance of compromising, the researcher’s professional judgment in conducting, evaluating or reporting on research. It may affect, or be seen to affect, not only the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, but also the hiring of staff, procurement of materials, sharing of results, choice of licensees, choice of protocol, involvement of human subjects, and the use of statistical methods.

Would you be conflicted if you were placed in any of the following situations?

- You have been funded to research the development of a particular medicine for a pharmaceutical company. You have been informed that if the testing results are positive, you will receive further grant funds for other projects. The company has also advised it will be unsupportive of the communication of contrary results.
- You hold equity in, and receive income from, a company that is sponsoring your research at the University.
- You have a desire to increase your publication rate, so you are thinking of using a slightly skewed research design that favours a particular outcome in the hope of improving the study’s appeal to a peer-reviewed journal.
- You testify at an environmental impact hearing that the proposed construction of a chemical plant by a company will have no negative impact on the surrounding community (though the plant will deals with toxic materials). The research behind your conclusions is originally government funded, but upon expiry, has been taken up by the company.

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