

Decisions which impact on the Western Australian community are made by public officers every day and the community expects those officers to act with integrity.

The Integrity in Decision Making Framework and supporting information and checklists were developed through the collaboration of the Ombudsman, the Public Sector Commission, the Corruption and Crime Commission and the Office of the Information Commissioner.

The Framework includes guidelines that provide information and tools on integrity in decision making, which can be used to strengthen and sustain decision making processes. These guidelines highlight key points which have been identified as useful considerations for decision makers.

|  |   | YES | NO | IN<br>DEVELOPMENT |  |
|--|---|-----|----|-------------------|--|
| Power Q: Do I have the power to make this decision?                              |   |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Do you have the statutory or executive power, or delegated authority, to make this decision and know where to find your organisation's delegations?   |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Do you know what decisions you have the power and authority to make?  |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Are there limitations on your power and do you know the circumstances in which these limitations apply?   |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Do you know if you should be making this decision, taking into account any real or perceived conflicts of interest?   |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Do you have the discretion to exercise judgement?   |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Do you know what factors to take into account when exercising judgement?  |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Do you know who you can speak to if you are unclear about the nature or scope of your power?  |     |    |                   |  |
| Principles Q: What ethical, accountability and proportionality principles apply? |   |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Do you know the ethical codes and legislation/regulations applying to decision making in your organisation?   |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Have you considered the 'First Steps' questions for ethical and accountable decision making:  |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | <ul> <li>Am I doing the right thing?</li> <li>How would others judge my actions?</li> <li>How could my actions impact on others?</li> <li>Should I discuss this with someone else?</li> <li>Does your decision support organisational goals?</li> </ul> |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Are your reasons for making a decision transparent and capable of being reviewed?   |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Are you aware of maintaining an appropriate level of confidentiality and have you considered privacy?   |     |    |                   |  |
| •  | Do you know where to report concerns about the application of the integrity principles in decision making within your organisation?   |     |    |                   |  |

## **Checklist for Decision Makers**

|   | YES | NO | IN<br>DEVELOPMENT |  |  |  |
|---|-----|----|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Proper Process Q: What is the appropriate process for making this decision?   |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Do you know where to find guidance on the decision<br/>making processes relevant to the decision you are<br/>making?</li> </ul>  |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Do you know where to find precedents, past practices<br/>and templates that might assist you during the process<br/>and in making a final decision?</li> </ul>   |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Are you able to be impartial and unbiased in making this decision?</li> </ul>  |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Do you know who to speak to if you are unclear about<br/>the proper process?</li> </ul>  |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Have you considered what the appropriate process to<br/>follow is to make this decision and does this incorporate<br/>procedural fairness considerations?</li> </ul>   |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| • Do you know what documentation you need to support<br>the decision, the information you need to give to people<br>affected (provided in the reasons for your decisions),<br>how that documentation is recorded and released and<br>how internal and external review processes can be<br>accessed? |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| Proportionate Outcomes Q: How can I achieve a balanced and proportionate outcome?   |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Do you know your organisation's priorities in terms of<br/>what weight to put on the competing needs of<br/>individuals, the public and the organisation?</li> </ul>   |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Do you know if the decisions you make strike the right<br/>balance between competing needs?</li> </ul>   |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Are you aware of the long-term consequences of your decisions?</li> </ul>  |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Are you advised if your decision is appealed against,<br/>overturned or approved by a higher authority?</li> </ul>   |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Do you know where to find appropriate documented<br/>evidence of decisions that have been made previously?</li> </ul>  |     |    |                   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Are you aware of who might review decisions that you<br/>make and how you can learn from them?</li> </ul>  |     |    |                   |  |  |  |

The Integrity in Decision Making Framework and supporting information sheets and checklists are available on the Ombudsman's website at <u>www.ombudsman.wa.gov.au</u>.