

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

PUBLIC INFORMATION REGULATIONS

Subordinate Legislation No. 1 of 2017

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Subordinate Legislation No. 1 of 2017*

Public Information Regulations

I, John Laurence Hardy, Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, make the following regulations under the *Public Information Act*.

Dated 13 February 2017

J. L. HARDY
Administrator

By His Honour's Command

K. E. VOWLES
Minister for Primary Industry and Resources
acting for
Chief Minister

* Notified in the *Northern Territory Government Gazette* on 14 February 2017.

Part 1 Preliminary matters**1 Citation**

These Regulations may be cited as the *Public Information Regulations*.

2 Commencement

These Regulations commence on the commencement of the *Public Information Amendment Act 2016*.

Part 2 Standards for giving of public information**3 Criteria for public information**

For section 6 of the Act, public information given by a public authority must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- (a) the information serves to do any of the following:
 - (i) maximise compliance with the laws of the Territory;
 - (ii) achieve awareness of a new or amended law;
 - (iii) improve public safety or personal security;
 - (iv) encourage responsible behaviour;
 - (v) preserve order in the event of an emergency;
 - (vi) promote awareness of rights, responsibilities, duties or entitlements;
 - (vii) encourage usage of, or familiarity with, government products or services;
- (b) the purpose of the information is to do any of the following:
 - (i) report on performance in relation to government undertakings;
 - (ii) communicate functions of government (for example, education campaigns, recruitment, community engagement, expressions of interest, future plans);
 - (iii) communicate on matters of social cohesion, civic pride, community spirit or tolerance.

4 Ensuring public information is factual

For section 6 of the Act, a public authority giving public information must ensure:

- (a) all facts (including comparisons) and statistics are presented accurately and objectively; and
- (b) all arguments are presented objectively; and
- (c) the source of all data is indicated or a means for identifying the data source is provided.

5 Comment by Agencies

(1) An Agency giving public information must not do either of the following:

- (a) comment on the views, policies or actions of a particular political party or political person;
- (b) criticise the views, policies or actions of a particular political party or political person.

(2) In this regulation:

political person means any of the following persons:

- (a) a person who holds an elected office in the Federal Parliament, the Legislative Assembly or a local government;
- (b) a person who seeks election to an office mentioned in paragraph (a).