



Australian Capital Territory

# Official Visitor Act 2012

A2012-33

**Republication No 8**

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Last amendment made by [A2019-29](#)  
(republication for amendments by [A2018-52](#)  
as amended by [A2019-18](#))

## About this republication

### The republished law

This is a republication of the *Official Visitor Act 2012* (including any amendment made under the *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 (Editorial changes)) as in force on 1 December 2019. It also includes any commencement, amendment, repeal or expiry affecting this republished law to 1 December 2019.

The legislation history and amendment history of the republished law are set out in endnotes 3 and 4.

### Kinds of republications

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office prepares 2 kinds of republications of ACT laws (see the ACT legislation register at [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)):

- authorised republications to which the *Legislation Act 2001* applies
- unauthorised republications.

The status of this republication appears on the bottom of each page.

### Editorial changes

The *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 authorises the Parliamentary Counsel to make editorial amendments and other changes of a formal nature when preparing a law for republication. Editorial changes do not change the effect of the law, but have effect as if they had been made by an Act commencing on the republication date (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 115 and s 117). The changes are made if the Parliamentary Counsel considers they are desirable to bring the law into line, or more closely into line, with current legislative drafting practice.

This republication does not include amendments made under part 11.3 (see endnote 1).

### Uncommenced provisions and amendments

If a provision of the republished law has not commenced, the symbol **U** appears immediately before the provision heading. Any uncommenced amendments that affect this republished law are accessible on the ACT legislation register ([www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)). For more information, see the home page for this law on the register.

### Modifications

If a provision of the republished law is affected by a current modification, the symbol **M** appears immediately before the provision heading. The text of the modifying provision appears in the endnotes. For the legal status of modifications, see the *Legislation Act 2001*, section 95.

### Penalties

At the republication date, the value of a penalty unit for an offence against this law is \$160 for an individual and \$810 for a corporation (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 133).



Australian Capital Territory

# Official Visitor Act 2012

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R8  
01/12/19

Official Visitor Act 2012  
Effective: 01/12/19-01/04/20

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Australian Capital Territory

## Official Visitor Act 2012

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An Act to provide for the appointment of official visitors, and for other purposes

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## Part 1 Preliminary

### 1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Official Visitor Act 2012*.

### 3 Dictionary

The dictionary at the end of this Act is part of this Act.

*Note 1* The dictionary at the end of this Act defines certain terms used in this Act, and includes references (*signpost definitions*) to other terms defined elsewhere in this Act.

For example, the signpost definition '*operational Act*—see section 7.' means that the term 'operational Act' is defined in that section.

*Note 2* A definition in the dictionary (including a signpost definition) applies to the entire Act unless the definition, or another provision of the Act, provides otherwise or the contrary intention otherwise appears (see [Legislation Act](#), s 155 and s 156 (1)).

### 4 Notes

A note included in this Act is explanatory and is not part of this Act.

*Note* See the [Legislation Act](#), s 127 (1), (4) and (5) for the legal status of notes.

### 5 Offences against Act—application of Criminal Code etc

Other legislation applies in relation to offences against this Act.

*Note 1* *Criminal Code*

The [Criminal Code](#), ch 2 applies to all offences against this Act (see Code, pt 2.1).

The chapter sets out the general principles of criminal responsibility (including burdens of proof and general defences), and defines terms used for offences to which the Code applies (eg *conduct*, *intention*, *recklessness* and *strict liability*).

*Note 2* *Penalty units*

The [Legislation Act](#), s 133 deals with the meaning of offence penalties that are expressed in penalty units.



## Part 2 Important concepts

### 6 Who is an *official visitor*?

For this Act:

*official visitor*, for a visitable place, means a person authorised to visit the place under section 9A.

### 7 What is an *operational Act*?

Each of the following is an *operational Act*:

- (a) the *Children and Young People Act 2008*;
- (b) the *Corrections Management Act 2007*;
- (c) the *Disability Services Act 1991*;
- (d) the *Housing Assistance Act 2007*;
- (e) the *Mental Health Act 2015*.

*Note* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments made or in force under the Act, including regulations (see [Legislation Act](#), s 104).

### 8 Who is an *entitled person*?

For this Act:

*entitled person*, at a visitable place, means—

- (a) for a visitable place under the *Children and Young People Act 2008*—see that [Act](#), section 37, definition of *entitled person*; and
- (b) for a visitable place under the *Corrections Management Act 2007*—see that [Act](#), section 57, definition of *entitled person*; and
- (c) for a visitable place under the *Disability Services Act 1991*—see that [Act](#), section 8A, definition of *entitled person*; and

- (d) for a visitable place under the *Housing Assistance Act 2007*—see that *Act*, section 25V, definition of *entitled person*; and
- (e) for a visitable place under the *Mental Health Act 2015*—see that *Act*, section 208, definition of *entitled person*.

## 9 What is a visitable place?

For this Act:

*visitable place* means a place mentioned in each of the following:

- (a) the *Children and Young People Act 2008*, section 37, definition of *visitable place*;
- (b) the *Corrections Management Act 2007*, section 57, definition of *visitable place*;
- (c) the *Disability Services Act 1991*, section 8B;
- (d) the *Housing Assistance Act 2007*, section 25V, definition of *visitable place*;
- (e) the *Mental Health Act 2015*, section 208, definition of *visitable place*.

## 9A Authorisation to visit places

- (1) An official visitor appointed under section 10 (1) for a visitable place is authorised to visit the place.
- (2) An official visitor appointed under section 10 (1) for a visitable place is authorised to visit another visitable place if asked, in writing, to visit the place, or deal with an entitled person at the place, by—
  - (a) an official visitor appointed under section 10 (1) for the place; or
  - (b) the official visitors board.

## Part 3 Appointment of official visitors

### 10 Appointment

- (1) The Minister must appoint the following:
  - (a) for a visitable place under the *Children and Young People Act 2008*—at least 2 official visitors, including 1 official visitor who is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person;
  - (b) for a visitable place under the *Corrections Management Act 2007*—at least 2 official visitors, including 1 official visitor who is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person;
  - (c) for a visitable place under the *Disability Services Act 1991*—at least 1 official visitor;
  - (d) for a visitable place under the *Housing Assistance Act 2007*—at least 1 official visitor;
  - (e) for a visitable place under the *Mental Health Act 2015*—at least 1 official visitor.
- (2) The Minister may appoint a person as an official visitor for a visitable place only if—
  - (a) the Minister has consulted the operational Minister for the place; and
  - (b) satisfied on reasonable grounds that the person has suitable qualifications or experience to exercise the functions of an official visitor for the place.
- (3) However, the Minister must not appoint a person as an official visitor for a visitable place if the person—
  - (a) is a public employee; or
  - (b) has a relevant interest in relation to the place.

(4) An operational Act may prescribe additional requirements for deciding whether or not to appoint a person as an official visitor for a visitable place.

(5) In this section:

***Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person*** means a person who—

- (a) is a descendant of an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander person; and
- (b) identifies as an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander person; and
- (c) is accepted as an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander person by an Aboriginal community or Torres Strait Islander community.

***relevant interest***, in relation to a visitable place, means—

- (a) a direct interest in a contract with the place or an entity providing services to the visitable place; or
- (b) a financial interest in the place.

## 11 Conditions of appointment

- (1) An appointment as an official visitor must not be for longer than 3 years.
- (2) The conditions of appointment of an official visitor are the conditions agreed between the Minister and the person, subject to any determination under the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995*.

*Note 1* For the making of appointments (including acting appointments), see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.3.

*Note 2* Certain Ministerial appointments require consultation with an Assembly committee and are disallowable (see [Legislation Act](#), div 19.3.3).

*Note 3* A person may be reappointed to a position if the person is eligible to be appointed to the position (see [Legislation Act](#), s 208 and dict, pt 1, def *appoint*).

## 12 Ending appointment

- (1) The Minister may end a person's appointment as an official visitor—
  - (a) for misbehaviour; or
  - (b) if the person—
    - (i) does not visit a visitable place as required under the visit and complaint guidelines made under section 23; and
    - (ii) continues to fail to visit the visitable place as required for 4 consecutive weeks; or
  - (c) if an operational Act prescribes requirements that the person must satisfy to be appointed as an official visitor—if the person no longer satisfies the criteria.
- (2) The Minister must end the person's appointment as an official visitor—
  - (a) for physical or mental incapacity, if the incapacity substantially affects the exercise of the person's functions; or
  - (b) if the person fails to take all reasonable steps to avoid being placed in a position where a conflict of interest arises during the exercise of the person's functions.
- (3) A person's appointment as an official visitor ends, by force of this section, if the person becomes a public employee.

*Note* A person's appointment also ends if the person resigns (see [Legislation Act](#), s 210).

## 13 Handover of records by official visitors

- (1) This section applies if a person's appointment as an official visitor ends.
- (2) The person must, not later than 7 days after the day the appointment ends, give any official visitor record held by the person to another official visitor.

(3) In this section:

*official visitor record* held by a person, means—

- (a) a record made or received by the person because of the person's functions as an official visitor; or
- (b) information held by the person because of the person's functions as an official visitor.

## Part 4 Functions of official visitors

### 14 Official visitor functions

- (1) An official visitor for a visitable place has the following functions:
  - (a) to visit the place and meet entitled people at the place;
  - (b) to monitor conditions, services and practices in the place;
  - (c) to investigate and seek to resolve complaints from, or on behalf of, entitled people at the place;
  - (d) to identify and report on systemic issues adversely affecting entitled people at the place;
  - (e) if appropriate, to refer complaints or issues from, or on behalf of, entitled people at the place to relevant investigative entities;
  - (f) to report to the Minister and operational Minister for the place as required under this Act;
  - (g) to exercise any other function given to an official visitor under this Act, an operational Act or another territory law.
- (2) An official visitor must, in exercising the official visitor's functions—
  - (a) respect and promote the human rights of entitled people; and
  - (b) promote the provision of services to, and care and treatment of, entitled people that is high quality and centres on the needs of entitled people; and
  - (c) have regard to the wishes of entitled people in relation to visits to visitable places and how complaints from or on behalf of entitled people are dealt with; and
  - (d) encourage the early resolution of complaints from, or on behalf of, entitled people whenever reasonable and practicable to do so; and

- (e) have regard to the objects and principles in operational Acts.

#### **14A Independence of official visitors**

Except as provided in this Act or another territory law, an official visitor is not subject to the direction of anyone else in relation to the exercise of a function under this Act.

#### **15 Official visitor may enter visitable place etc**

- (1) An official visitor for a visitable place may, at any reasonable time, enter the visitable place following a complaint or at the official visitor's own initiative.

**Example—time that would not be reasonable**

a time that would hinder a search, or coincide with an escape attempt, at a visitable place

- (2) The official visitor may when at the visitable place inspect—
  - (a) any health record or any other record relating to an entitled person at the visitable place if the official visitor has the entitled person's—
    - (i) written consent; or
    - (ii) oral consent, if a written record of the consent is made by a person who heard the consent being given; and
  - (b) any other record required to be kept under the operational Act.

**Examples—other record relating to an entitled person**

for an entitled person in a mental health facility—dietary plans, behavioural plans, records about seclusion or chemical restraint, day plans, lists of rostered carers

- (3) Without limiting subsection (1), the operational Act may prescribe minimum requirements for a visit by the official visitor to the visitable place.



**16 Official visitor must report non-compliant visitable places**

- (1) This section applies if an official visitor for a visitable place believes on reasonable grounds that any of the following is not in accordance with the operational Act for the place:
  - (a) the care and other services provided to an entitled person at the place;
  - (b) the living conditions and activities of an entitled person at the place;
  - (c) if an entitled person is detained under the operational Act at the place—the detention of the person at the place (including any aspect of the treatment, living conditions, work or activities of the detainee).
- (2) The official visitor—
  - (a) must report the belief to the operational Minister; and
  - (b) may report the belief to—
    - (i) the relevant director-general; and
    - (ii) the public advocate; and
    - (iii) the official visitors board; and
    - (iv) the senior practitioner.
- (3) An operational Act may prescribe other reporting requirements for the visitable place.

## 17 Reporting of complaints

- (1) An official visitor for a visitable place must give the operational Minister, as soon as practicable after the end of each quarter, a written report for the quarter summarising—
  - (a) the number and kinds of complaints received by the official visitor in relation to the visitable place; and
  - (b) the action taken on the complaints received; and
  - (c) the number and kinds of matters referred by the official visitor to an investigative entity.

*Note* **Quarter**—see the [Legislation Act](#), dictionary, pt 1.

- (2) The official visitor may give a copy of the report to—
  - (a) the relevant director-general; and
  - (b) the public advocate; and
  - (c) the official visitors board.
- (3) The report may include comments by the official visitor about anything in relation to a complaint mentioned in the report.
- (4) For each financial year, the operational Minister must present a report of the information given to the Minister under subsection (1) to the Legislative Assembly within 6 sitting days after the end of the 3-month period after the end of the financial year.
- (5) In this section:

***investigative entity*** means an entity with power to require the production of documents or the answering of questions including, for example, the chief police officer, the human rights commission, the ombudsman and the integrity commissioner.

**18 Assistance to official visitors**

- (2) An operating entity for a visitable place must give an official visitor for the place any reasonable assistance the official visitor asks for to exercise the official visitor's functions at the place.

**Examples**

- 1 giving access to documents and records relating to a complaint
- 2 answering reasonable questions about the facts of a complaint
- 3 giving reasonable access to facilities

*Note* The [Legislation Act](#), s 170 deals with the application of the privilege against self-incrimination.

- (3) An operating entity must not give an official visitor access to an entitled person's health record without the entitled person's consent.

**19 Offences—failure to provide assistance etc**

- (1) A person in charge of an operating entity for a visitable place must not, without reasonable excuse—
- (a) refuse or neglect to render assistance if asked by an official visitor under section 18; or
  - (b) fail to answer any question if asked by an official visitor in the exercise of the official visitor’s functions.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (2) A person in charge of an operating entity for a visitable place must not, without reasonable excuse, obstruct or hinder an official visitor in the exercise of the official visitor’s functions.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

- (3) A person in charge of an operating entity for a visitable place must keep a record of each visit by an official visitor to the visitable place.

Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.

*Note* If a form is approved under s 26 for a record, the form must be used.

- (4) In this section:

***person in charge***, of an operating entity, means—

- (a) if the operating entity is the Territory—the relevant director-general; and
- (b) in any other case—the person in charge of the entity.

## Part 5 Visits and complaints

### 20 Operating entity must let entitled people know about official visitors

- (1) An operating entity for a visitable place must tell an entitled person at the visitable place, or a person acting on the entitled person's behalf, about—
  - (a) the functions of an official visitor; and
  - (b) how the official visitor may be contacted.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), an operating entity for a visitable place must, not later than when an entitled person first enters the place, give the person information about their right to make complaints under this Act in a way that is accessible to the person.

#### Examples—giving information

- 1 if an entitled person is likely to go to a common area in a visitable place—a notice in a prominent position on the wall in the area
- 2 if it is not practicable or appropriate to put up a notice in a visitable place—give an entitled person a pamphlet
- 3 if an entitled person is not able to see or understand information in writing—tell the person orally
- 4 if an entitled person is not able to understand the information—give written information to the person's legal guardian

### 21 Requests to meet official visitor

- (1) This section applies if an entitled person at a visitable place tells the operating entity for the place that the person wants to meet an official visitor.
- (2) The operating entity must ensure that an official visitor for the visitable place is told of the request as soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours after the request is made.

- (3) An operating entity must not ask an entitled person, and the person need not explain to the operating entity, why the person wants to meet an official visitor.

## 22 Complaints to official visitors

- (1) An entitled person at a visitable place, or anyone else, may complain to an official visitor for the place about any aspect of the person's accommodation including—
- (a) the conditions of accommodation of an entitled person; or
  - (b) the care or services provided to an entitled person at the place; or
  - (c) the activities available to an entitled person at the place; or
  - (d) how the place is conducted.
- (2) The entitled person may make the complaint to the official visitor personally or through someone else.
- (3) The entitled person may ask to make a complaint—
- (a) to the official visitor with no-one else present; and
  - (b) to an official visitor of the same gender.
- (4) If the official visitor agrees that the complaint may be made with only the entitled person present, the operating entity must provide reasonably private facilities for the complaint to be made.
- (5) In this section:
- accommodation***, of an entitled person, includes, if an entitled person is detained or confined under an operational Act at a visitable place, the person's detention or confinement.

**23 Visit and complaint guidelines**

- (1) The Minister may, after consulting the operational Minister for an operational Act, make guidelines about—
  - (a) visits by an official visitor for the operational Act; and
  - (b) the handling of complaints, and referral of complaints to investigative entities, by an official visitor for the operational Act.
- (2) The guidelines must include a schedule that sets out—
  - (a) each visitable place that an official visitor must visit; and
  - (b) how often the official visitor must visit the place.
- (3) A guideline is a disallowable instrument.

*Note* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

## Part 5A Official visitors board

### 23A Establishment of official visitors board

The official visitors board is established.

### 23B Membership of official visitors board

- (1) The official visitors board is made up of—
  - (a) the public trustee and guardian; and
  - (b) at least 1 commissioner under the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005* nominated by the commissioners under that Act; and
  - (c) 2 official visitors elected by the official visitors.
- (2) The chair of the board is the public trustee and guardian.
- (3) The Minister may determine procedures for subsection (1) (c).
- (4) A determination is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

### 23C Official visitors board functions

The official visitors board has the following functions:

- (a) to arrange training for official visitors;
- (b) to facilitate interaction between official visitors;  
*Note* An official visitor may ask an official visitor for another operational Act for assistance (see s 18 (1)).
- (c) to arrange for the provision of administrative assistance to official visitors;
- (d) to exercise any other function given to the board under this Act, an operational Act or another territory law.



**23D Official visitors board procedure**

- (1) Meetings of the official visitors board are to be held when and where it decides.
- (2) However—
  - (a) the official visitors board must meet at least twice each year; and
  - (b) the public trustee and guardian may, by reasonable written notice given to the other official visitors board members, call a meeting.
- (3) The official visitors board may conduct its proceedings (including its meetings) as it considers appropriate.

## Part 6 Miscellaneous

### 23DB Register of visitable places

- (1) The relevant director-general for a visitable place must keep a register of each visitable place mentioned under the relevant operational Act.
- (2) The register—
  - (a) must include—
    - (i) the address of each visitable place; and
    - (ii) if relevant for a visitable place—the contact details of a person who can provide access to the place; and
    - (iii) any information prescribed by an operational Act; and
  - (b) may include—
    - (i) the name of each entitled person at each visitable place; and
    - (ii) the name and contact details of each operating entity for each visitable place; and
    - (iii) if an operating entity for a visitable place is not an individual—the name, phone number and email address of the following:
      - (A) an employee or volunteer based at the place;
      - (B) 2 employees of the entity.
- (3) The relevant director-general for a visitable place must, on request, give information on the register to any of the following:
  - (a) an official visitor for the place;
  - (b) the official visitors board;
  - (c) the public advocate;

- (d) a commissioner under the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005*;
  - (e) the senior practitioner.
- (4) The relevant director-general for a visitable place may, on request, give the information mentioned in subsection (2) (a) to any of the following people, if satisfied giving the information is reasonable in the circumstances:
- (a) a person exercising a function under this Act or the operational Act;
  - (b) a member of the emergency services under the *Emergencies Act 2004*;
  - (c) an entitled person at the place;
  - (d) a carer or legal representative of an entitled person at the place;
  - (e) anyone else approved by the relevant director-general.
- (5) In this section:

*carer*—see the *Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991*, section 6.

*legal representative*, of an entitled person who does not have legal capacity, means the person's parent or guardian.

## **23E Voting at meetings**

- (1) At an official visitors board meeting, each board member has a vote on each question to be decided.
- (2) A question is to be decided by a majority of the votes of the official visitors board members present and voting but, if the votes are equal, the public trustee and guardian has a deciding vote.

## 24 Protection of officials from liability

- (1) An official is not civilly liable for anything done or omitted to be done honestly and without recklessness—
  - (a) in the exercise of a function under this Act; or
  - (b) in the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a function under this Act.
- (2) Any civil liability that would, apart from subsection (1), attach to an official attaches instead to the Territory.
- (3) In this section:  
*official* means—
  - (a) an official visitor; or
  - (b) an official visitors board member; or
  - (c) a person authorised under this Act to do or not to do a thing.

*Note* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments made or in force under the Act, including any regulation (see [Legislation Act](#), s 104).

## 25 Offences—use or divulge protected information

- (1) A person to whom this section applies commits an offence if—
  - (a) the person uses information; and
  - (b) the information is protected information about someone else; and
  - (c) the person is reckless about whether the information is protected information about someone else.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

- (2) A person to whom this section applies commits an offence if—
- (a) the person does something that divulges information; and
  - (b) the information is protected information about someone else; and
  - (c) the person is reckless about whether—
    - (i) the information is protected information about someone else; and
    - (ii) doing the thing would result in the information being divulged to someone else.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply if the information is used or divulged—
- (a) under this Act or another territory law; or
  - (b) in relation to the exercise of a function, as a person to whom this section applies, under this Act or another territory law; or
  - (c) in a court proceeding.
- (4) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to the using or divulging of protected information about a person with the person's consent.

*Note* The defendant has an evidential burden in relation to the matters mentioned in ss (3) and (4) (see [Criminal Code](#), s 58).

- (5) A person to whom this section applies need not divulge protected information to a court, or produce a document containing protected information to a court, unless it is necessary to do so for this Act or another law applying in the territory.

- (6) In this section:

***court*** includes a tribunal, authority or person having power to require the production of documents or the answering of questions.

***divulge*** includes—

- (a) communicate; or
- (b) publish.

***person to whom this section applies*** means—

- (a) a person who is or has been an official visitor; or
- (b) anyone else who has exercised a function under this Act.

***produce*** includes allow access to.

***protected information*** means information about a person that is disclosed to, or obtained by, a person to whom this section applies because of the exercise of a function under this Act by the person or someone else.

***use information*** includes make a record of the information.

## 26 Approved forms

- (1) The Minister may approve forms for this Act.
- (2) If the Minister approves a form for a particular purpose, the approved form must be used for that purpose.

*Note* For other provisions about forms, see the [Legislation Act](#), s 255.

- (3) An approved form is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

## 27 Regulation-making power

The Executive may make regulations for this Act.

*Note* A regulation must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

## Dictionary

(see s 3)

*Note 1* The [Legislation Act](#) contains definitions and other provisions relevant to this Act.

*Note 2* For example, the [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1 defines the following terms:

- appoint
- director-general (see s 163)
- exercise
- function
- integrity commissioner
- Minister (see s 162)
- public advocate
- public trustee and guardian.

***entitled person***, at a visitable place—see section 8.

***health record***—see the [Health Records \(Privacy and Access\) Act 1997](#), dictionary.

***official visitor***, for a visitable place—see section 6.

***official visitors board*** means the official visitors board established under section 23A.

***operating entity***, for a visitable place, means—

- (a) if the Territory operates the place—the relevant director-general; or
- (b) in any other case—the entity that operates the place.

***operational Act***—see section 7.

***operational Minister***, for a visitable place, means the Minister responsible for the operational Act under which the visitable place is mentioned.

***relevant director-general***, for a visitable place, means the director-general of the administrative unit responsible for the operational Act under which the place is mentioned.

***senior practitioner*** means the Senior Practitioner under the [Senior Practitioner Act 2018](#).

***visitable place***—see section 9.



## Endnotes

### 1 About the endnotes

Amending and modifying laws are annotated in the legislation history and the amendment history. Current modifications are not included in the republished law but are set out in the endnotes.

Not all editorial amendments made under the *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 are annotated in the amendment history. Full details of any amendments can be obtained from the Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

Uncommenced amending laws are not included in the republished law. The details of these laws are underlined in the legislation history. Uncommenced expiries are underlined in the legislation history and amendment history.

If all the provisions of the law have been renumbered, a table of renumbered provisions gives details of previous and current numbering.

The endnotes also include a table of earlier republications.

### 2 Abbreviation key

A = Act	NI = Notifiable instrument
AF = Approved form	o = order
am = amended	om = omitted/repealed
amdt = amendment	ord = ordinance
AR = Assembly resolution	orig = original
ch = chapter	par = paragraph/subparagraph
CN = Commencement notice	pres = present
def = definition	prev = previous
DI = Disallowable instrument	(prev...) = previously
dict = dictionary	pt = part
disallowed = disallowed by the Legislative Assembly	r = rule/subrule
div = division	reloc = relocated
exp = expires/expired	renum = renumbered
Gaz = gazette	R[X] = Republication No
hdg = heading	RI = reissue
IA = Interpretation Act 1967	s = section/subsection
ins = inserted/added	sch = schedule
LA = Legislation Act 2001	sdiv = subdivision
LR = legislation register	SL = Subordinate law
LRA = Legislation (Republication) Act 1996	sub = substituted
mod = modified/modification	<u>underlining</u> = whole or part not commenced or to be expired

## Endnotes

3 Legislation history

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### 3 Legislation history

#### **Official Visitor Act 2012 A2012-33**

notified LR 15 June 2012  
s 1, s 2 commenced 15 June 2012 (LA s 75 (1))  
remainder commenced 1 September 2013 (s 2 (as am by [A2013-22](#)  
s 4))

as amended by

#### **[Official Visitor Amendment Act 2013 A2013-22](#)**

notified LR 17 June 2013  
s 1, s 2 commenced 17 June 2013 (LA s 75 (1))  
remainder commenced 1 September 2013 (s 2 and see A2012-33 s 2  
as am by this Act)

#### **[Mental Health Act 2015 A2015-38 sch 2 pt 2.4 div 2.4.12](#)**

notified LR 7 October 2015  
s 1, s 2 commenced 7 October 2015 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 2 pt 2.4 div 2.4.12 commenced 1 March 2016 (s 2 (1) and see  
[Mental Health \(Treatment and Care\) Amendment Act 2014 A2014-51](#),  
s 2 (as am by [A2015-38](#) amdt 2.54))

#### **[Protection of Rights \(Services\) Legislation Amendment Act 2016 \(No 2\) A2016-13 sch 1 pt 1.29](#)**

notified LR 16 March 2016  
s 1, s 2 commenced 16 March 2016 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.29 commenced 1 April 2016 (s 2 and see [Protection of Rights \(Services\) Legislation Amendment Act 2016 A2016-1 s 2](#))

#### **[Statute Law Amendment Act 2017 \(No 2\) A2017-28 sch 3 pt 3.10](#)**

notified LR 27 September 2017  
s 1, s 2 commenced 27 September 2017 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 3 pt 3.10 commenced 11 October 2017 (s 2)

#### **[Integrity Commission Act 2018 A2018-52 sch 1 pt 1.18 \(as am by A2019-18 s 4\)](#)**

notified LR 11 December 2018  
s 1, s 2 commenced 11 December 2018 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.18 commenced 1 December 2019 (s 2 (2) (a) as am by  
[A2019-18](#) s 4)

**Integrity Commission Amendment Act 2019 A2019-18**

notified LR 14 June 2019

s 1, s 2 commenced 14 June 2019 (LA s 75 (1))

s 3, s 4 commenced 15 June 2019 (s 2 (1))

*Note* This Act only amends the [Integrity Commission Act 2018](#) A2018-52.

**Official Visitor Amendment Act 2019 A2019-29**

notified LR 2 October 2019

s 1, s 2 commenced 2 October 2019

s 7, s 9, s 10 (so far as it inserts s 15 (2)-(7)), s 16, s 19, ss 25-30, ss 32-35, s 37 awaiting commencement

remainder commenced 3 October 2019 (s 2 (2))

## Endnotes

4 Amendment history

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### 4 Amendment history

#### Commencement

s 2 sub [A2013-22](#) s 4  
om LA s 89 (4)

#### Who is an *official visitor*?

s 6 sub [A2019-29](#) s 4

#### What is an *operational Act*?

s 7 am [A2015-38](#) amdt 2.81

#### Who is an *entitled person*?

s 8 sub [A2019-29](#) s 5

#### What is a *visitable place*?

s 9 sub [A2019-29](#) s 5

#### Authorisation to visit places

s 9A ins [A2019-29](#) s 5

#### Appointment

s 10 am [A2015-38](#) amdt 2.81  
sub [A2019-29](#) s 6

#### Ending appointment

s 12 am [A2013-22](#) s 5, s 24; [A2019-29](#) s 8

#### Official visitor functions

s 14 am [A2013-22](#) s 24  
sub [A2019-29](#) s 10

#### Independence of official visitors

s 14A ins [A2019-29](#) s 10

#### Official visitor may enter visitable place etc

s 15 hdg sub [A2013-22](#) s 6; [A2019-29](#) s 10  
s 15 am [A2013-22](#) s 7; ss renum R1 LA  
s (1) sub [A2019-29](#) s 10

#### Official visitor must report non-compliant visitable places

s 16 am [A2013-22](#) s 8; [A2019-29](#) ss 11-13

#### Reporting of complaints

s 17 am [A2013-22](#) s 9; [A2017-28](#) amdt 3.30; [A2019-29](#) s 14, s 15;  
[A2018-52](#) amdt 1.96

#### Assistance to official visitors

s 18 am [A2013-22](#) s 10, s 11; [A2019-29](#) s 17, s 18

#### Offences—failure to provide assistance etc

s 19 am [A2013-22](#) s 12

**Visits and complaints**pt 5 hdg sub [A2013-22](#) s 13**Operating entity must let entitled people know about official visitors**s 20 am [A2019-29](#) s 20**Requests to meet official visitor**s 21 am [A2013-22](#) s 14; [A2019-29](#) s 21, s 22**Complaints to official visitors**s 22 am [A2019-29](#) s 23, s 24**Visit and complaint guidelines**s 23 hdg sub [A2013-22](#) s 15s 23 am [A2013-22](#) s 16, s 24**Official visitors board**pt 5A hdg ins [A2013-22](#) s 17**Establishment of official visitors board**s 23A ins [A2013-22](#) s 17**Membership of official visitors board**s 23B ins [A2013-22](#) s 17am [A2016-13](#) amdts 1.98-1.100; pars renum R4 LA; [A2017-28](#)  
amdt 3.31**Official visitors board functions**s 23C ins [A2013-22](#) s 17**Official visitors board procedure**s 23D ins [A2013-22](#) s 17am [A2016-13](#) amdt 1.101**Register of visitable places**s 23DB ins [A2019-29](#) s 31**Voting at meetings**s 23E ins [A2016-13](#) amdt 1.102**Protection of officials from liability**s 24 am [A2013-22](#) s 18; pars renum R1 LA**Offences—use or divulge protected information**s 25 am [A2013-22](#) s 19**Approved forms**s 26 am [A2017-28](#) amdt 3.32**Legislation amended—sch 1**

s 28 om LA s 89 (3)

**Transitional**

pt 10 hdg exp 1 September 2015 (s 54)

## Endnotes

### 4 Amendment history

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#### Definitions—pt 10

s 50 exp 1 September 2015 (s 54)  
def **commencement day** exp 1 September 2015 (s 54)  
def **operational Act** exp 1 September 2015 (s 54)

#### Unfinished complaints to official visitors

s 51 exp 1 September 2015 (s 54)

#### Existing appointments

s 52 exp 1 September 2015 (s 54)

#### Transitional regulations

s 53 exp 1 September 2015 (s 54)

#### Expiry—pt 10

s 54 exp 1 September 2015 (s 54)

#### Transitional—Mental Health Act 2015

pt 11 hdg ins [A2015-38](#) amd 2.82  
exp 1 September 2016 (s 62)

#### Definitions—pt 11

s 60 ins [A2015-38](#) amd 2.82  
exp 1 September 2016 (s 62)  
def **commencement day** ins [A2015-38](#) amd 2.82  
exp 1 September 2016 (s 62)  
def **repealed Act** ins [A2015-38](#) amd 2.82  
exp 1 September 2016 (s 62)

#### Continued appointment

s 61 ins [A2015-38](#) amd 2.82  
exp 1 September 2016 (s 62)

#### Expiry—pt 11

s 62 ins [A2015-38](#) amd 2.82  
exp 1 September 2016 (s 62)

#### Consequential amendments

sch 1 hdg om LA s 89 (3)

#### Children and Young People Act 2008

sch 1 pt 1.1 om LA s 89 (3)

#### Corrections Management Act 2007

sch 1 pt 1.2 om LA s 89 (3)

#### Disability Services Act 1991

sch 1 pt 1.3 om LA s 89 (3)

#### New section 9A

sch 1 amd 1.27 om [A2013-22](#) s 20

**New section 11**

sch 1 amdt 1.28 om [A2013-22](#) s 20

**Housing Assistance Act 2007**

sch 1 pt 1.4 om LA s 89 (3)

**Legislation Act 2001**

sch 1 pt 1.5 om LA s 89 (3)

**Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act 1994**

sch 1 pt 1.6 om LA s 89 (3)

**Territory Records Regulation 2009**

sch 1 pt 1.7 om LA s 89 (3)

**Dictionary**

dict am [A2013-22](#) s 21; [A2016-13](#) amdt 1.103; [A2018-52](#)  
amdt 1.97  
def **entitled person** sub [A2019-29](#) s 36  
def **health record** ins [A2013-22](#) s 22  
def **investigative entity** am [A2016-13](#) amdt 1.104  
om [A2017-28](#) amdt 3.33  
def **official visitor** sub [A2019-29](#) s 36  
def **official visitors board** ins [A2013-22](#) s 22  
def **operating entity** am [A2013-22](#) s 23  
def **operational Minister** sub [A2019-29](#) s 38  
def **relevant director-general** sub [A2019-29](#) s 38  
def **senior practitioner** ins [A2019-29](#) s 39  
def **visitable place** sub [A2019-29](#) s 40

## Endnotes

### 5 Earlier republications

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#### 5 Earlier republications

Some earlier republications were not numbered. The number in column 1 refers to the publication order.

Since 12 September 2001 every authorised republication has been published in electronic pdf format on the ACT legislation register. A selection of authorised republications have also been published in printed format. These republications are marked with an asterisk (\*) in column 1. Electronic and printed versions of an authorised republication are identical.

<b>Republication No and date</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Last amendment made by</b>	<b>Republication for</b>
R1 1 Sept 2013	1 Sept 2013– 1 Sept 2015	<a href="#">A2013-22</a>	new Act and amendments by <a href="#">A2013-22</a>
R2 2 Sept 2016	2 Sept 2015– 29 Feb 2016	<a href="#">A2013-22</a>	expiry of transitional provisions (pt 10)
R3 1 Mar 2016	1 Mar 2016– 31 Mar 2016	<a href="#">A2015-38</a>	amendments by <a href="#">A2015-38</a>
R4 1 Apr 2016	1 Apr 2016– 1 Sep 2016	<a href="#">A2016-13</a>	amendments by <a href="#">A2016-13</a>
R5 2 Sept 2016	2 Sept 2016– 10 Oct 2017	<a href="#">A2016-13</a>	expiry of transitional provisions (pt 11)
R6 11 Oct 2017	11 Oct 2017– 2 Oct 2019	<a href="#">A2017-28</a>	amendments by <a href="#">A2017-28</a>
R7 3 Oct 2019	3 Oct 2019– 30 Nov 2019	<a href="#">A2019-29</a>	amendments by <a href="#">A2019-29</a>



**6 Expired transitional or validating provisions**

This Act may be affected by transitional or validating provisions that have expired. The expiry does not affect any continuing operation of the provisions (see [Legislation Act 2001](#), s 88 (1)).

Expired provisions are removed from the republished law when the expiry takes effect and are listed in the amendment history using the abbreviation ‘exp’ followed by the date of the expiry.

To find the expired provisions see the version of this Act before the expiry took effect. The ACT legislation register has point-in-time versions of this Act.

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