



# PROCUREMENT COMPLIMENTS AND CONCERNS PROCEDURE

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## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the process that suppliers and contractors need to undertake should they have concerns, complaints or compliments with regards to East Wimmera Health Services [EWHS] procurement activities.

## TARGET AUDIENCE:

Suppliers and Contractors

## PROCEDURE:

Any complaint about a procurement activity process undertaken by the health service must be submitted in writing (via Letter, email, website or Fax) to the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). The CPO role at EWHS is fulfilled by the Director of Finance and Administration.

The written complaint must set out:

- the basis for the complaint (specifying the issues involved);
- how the subject of the complaint (and the specific issues) affect the person or organisation making the complaint;
- any relevant background information; and
- the expected corrective outcome.

All complaints received must be entered into the Victorian Hospital Incident Management System (VHIMS).

The CPO will allocate the complaint to an authorised staff member to investigate the complaint.

The CPO will ensure that any complaints received about a staff member are not investigated or responded to by that individual staff member in question.

All complaints will be dealt with in a timely manner:

Formal complaints will be acknowledged within 3 days;

- In the majority of cases, investigation(s) are to be completed within 10 working days; and
- If the investigation is anticipated to take longer than 10 working days, the complainant is to be notified of the likely response date.

The Investigating Officer may throughout the course of their investigation require to meet with the Complainant to either clarify any issues or seek further information.

Once the complaint is resolved, the VHIMS entry will be closed and any corrective action identified as a result of the investigation will be brought to the attention of the Executive where appropriate action will be undertaken.

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If the complaint cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, the health service will notify HPV within five working days that the complaint could not be resolved and will advise the complainant that:

- the matter can be referred to the Board of Health Purchasing Victoria (HPV) for their review at the following address:

The Chair HPV Board  
Health Purchasing Victoria Level 34, 2 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000

- they have 10 days from the date of receipt of the findings by the health service to lodge their complaint with HPV; and
- they are required to provide the following documentation to HPV:
- evidence that the health service did not correctly apply Health Purchasing policies in relation to a procurement activity;
- evidence that the health service's complaints management procedures were not applied correctly; and
- a copy of all relevant correspondence between the complainant and the health service in relation to the nature of the complaint.

The health service will maintain a record of all complaints received (via VHIMS) related to each procurement activity indicating whether the complaint was:

- resolved,
- is still under investigation; or,
- couldn't be resolved.

This information will be included in the health services' annual report.

## SUPPORTING RESOURCES:

- Aged Care Quality Standards:- Standard 8.3C Finance Management
- National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards: - Standard 1 – Clinical Governance,
- HPV Health Purchasing Policy 1. Procurement Governance

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Procurement Compliments and Concerns Policy](#)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

East Grampians Health Service

## VERSION CONTROL:

Version no.	Date approved:	Short description of amendment	Date to be reviewed:
1.0	May 2020	New procedure.	May 2021