



### Chris starts a construction business

#### The story

Chris has been a purchasing officer with the department for a number of years. She and her partner, who is a builder, are in the process of setting up a general contracting construction business.

At this stage, Chris plans to continue with her full time job at the department and just work on the business in the evening and on the weekend. It will take a while to build up the business and her partner will be available to focus on it full time.

Chris has been open with her manager about their plans – they have discussed management of the potential conflict of interest. Over her years at the department, Chris has developed some great relationships with contractors. She has been careful not to mention the upcoming business plans to any of them, as they don't want to exert any undue influence.

However, Chris sees no harm in using the department's contacts to set up the database for their business. Most of them are available publicly anyway – Chris is just being efficient and there is no harm, right?

#### Questions

1. What are the ethical issues around this situation?
2. Should Chris proceed with using the department's contacts?
3. What could be done to address the issues and prevent this from occurring again?

The information used in this scenario is not factual – we created it for education and discussion. Any likeness to actual persons or events is coincidental.



#### The Commission can help

We are available to provide support and assistance with identifying, reporting, investigating, managing and preventing misconduct: [prevention@integrity.tas.gov.au](mailto:prevention@integrity.tas.gov.au) or 1300 720 289.

For more Misconduct Prevention resources go to [www.integrity.tas.gov.au/resources](http://www.integrity.tas.gov.au/resources)