

Key messages for conduct reviewers

- Councils are encouraged to resolve less serious complaints about councillors and the general manager informally. Where this is not possible, these complaints can be referred to an independent conduct reviewer for assessment and resolution and, where they are serious, investigation.
- The model code of conduct and procedures include a broad range of strategies to address conduct complaints. Conduct reviewers now have the flexibility to resolve complaints with or without an investigation. Conduct reviewers are encouraged to resolve less serious complaints informally where possible.
- The new model code ensures that conduct reviewers are independent and qualified persons with knowledge of investigative processes and an understanding of local government.
- A conduct reviewer can determine that conduct either does or does not breach the code. This is submitted to council in the final report.
- The council may by resolution impose sanctions or choose not to adopt the recommendations from the final report. However, the council may not seek submissions to rehear evidence or make determinations about breaches to the code.