

CRIME AND CORRUPTION
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Submission 11 - Concerned Queensland Nanna

Who will be watching the Watchdog?

Do we need to give the Crime and Corruption Commission more power to take away individuals right's. They now have the right to force individuals to coercive hearings, there is no right to silence, remember freedom of speech should also include the freedom to remain silent, if individuals refuse there is the threat of imprisonment, their solicitor can't speak in their defence. I believe Crime and Corruption Commissions are misusing their powers, I myself was forced to a [REDACTED] and I observed my husband being followed by Officers from the Crime Commission. All this was because they had belief that a family member, who is a public servant was involved in corruption. I have never had any criminal convictions or traffic offences and yet I was made to feel like a criminal. I believe that they have misused their powers by [REDACTED] because they had a belief of corruption, as a consequence of this I have been severely traumatised to the point where I was being treated by a phycologist for anxiety, I seldom leave my home or rarely use my phone. My story is probably one of many similar stories where Crime Commissions have overstepped their boundaries on private citizens and because of the laws involved victims are not allowed to speak out. Our governments should never consider giving Crime Commissions more powers to silence citizens. Crime Commissions should never have the ability to imprison people for going to the media.

In a recent story from [REDACTED] suggests that Noble cause corruption is alive and well within the CCC. It is stated where police must treat their clients with dignity and respect but it does not apply to Police. The story states that the CCC is immune from the same standards that the rest of us are bound by. From my experience with the Crime Commission I believe Police officers and their families are not given the same rights as an Ice Dealer or a Paedophile.

I agree with [REDACTED] that the PCMC considered the ongoing requirement for openness and transparency outweighs the need for any legislative amendments. We as a society must fight for our rights and not allow Secret Police to dictate to us about going to the media. There should never be a threat of imprisonment hanging over our heads if we were to talk to the media.

Considering complaints to the CCC are more against police than others, is this really about protecting their identity? I think not, the CCC freely announce to the media when an officer is stood down or suspended. A police officer who was charged recently for allegations of misconduct was photographed and named when he appeared in court and it was published in the media, keeping in mind that the officer has not been convicted of anything; his allegations were made after a CCC investigation and are yet to be tested in court. If the Officer is cleared of allegations the CCC will never publicly announce that he or she has been cleared. When a politician is cleared of an investigation it will always make front page news and also published on The Crime Commissions website, why is this so? In my opinion, the CCC is becoming more political than crime fighting, there would seem that they are all about protecting Politician's reputations, keeping in mind that the investigation into a Mayor, never harmed his reputation, if I remember correctly, he was voted back in with over 70% of the residents voting for him.

CCC states their effectiveness of their investigations maybe compromised if it is revealed publicly, this is not completely true as most of their investigations are started long before the suspect is aware of any investigation. Suspects phones are already tapped and possibly their movements are being monitored long before the Crime Commission announces themselves. Furthermore forced

witnesses are never allowed to reveal anything, the law states if they reveal anything it is 6 months imprisonment.

In concluding our freedoms and liberties are being attacked by paranoid governments, we as citizens should not allow any bad legislation that will give more powers to those who wish to take away our basic legal rights. To allow Crime Commissions to be trusted with extra powers could have the potential of being misused by untouchable persons within their organisation. Just as we have corrupt politicians, corrupt public servants and criminals do we need another law that could potentially stifle citizens from speaking out against the already secret organisation called the Crime and Corruption Commission.

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