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Good Afternoon,

As a resident of Queensland, I completely and 100% disagree with the move to remove the right of citizens to make allegations of corrupt conduct public. The problem with this proposition is that it directly contradicts rights to free speech and the right to knowledge. Moreover, it imposes onto all citizens ideas that are believed by government and are not commonly held by people.

Reading the report, it is clear that one of the major concerns, if not the major concern with allowing allegations of corrupt conduct to be made public is that fair or unfair media coverage about the trial will be allowed to occur. However, in a free society, media coverage that is seen to be harsh or even unfair is a right and should be protected. Just because we do not like it does not mean we should outlaw it. In the few cases that it the reporting done by media is untrue, laws such as defamation already exist to protect citizens from occurrences such as this happening.

I should add that the reporting of media on allegations of corrupt conduct should have absolutely no bearing on the fairness of the trial. In a free society, one should be able to have both a fair trial and media reporting on it. Rather than the media influencing the trial proceedings, the media is affected by the trial. The media does not want to influence any outcomes in cases nor is it in the business of doing so. Therefore any influence that it may have on fairness of the trial lies solely with the judge or jury.

Finally, with regard to the damaging effect allegations may have on the reputation of officers, I do not believe we should give up our right to free expression because of the actions of a few. To illustrate this point, I shall provide an analogy. Drink driving causes at least 50 to 100 deaths in Australia every year killing many innocent lives. Nothing will stop this in its entirety except the outlawing of cars. We should not give up the freedoms of people to stop the actions of a few.

We need to respect the principle of freedom of speech and free expression in this country. I sincerely hope you heed this advice and take into consideration all the effects of this proposition before coming to a conclusion.

Kind Regards

NAME WITHHELD