

Submission 21 - Queensland Law Society -

27 June 2016

Publicising allegations
Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland
Policy and Research

By email: publicisingallegations@ccc.qld.gov.au

Dear Research Team

Crime and Corruption Commission Discussion Paper- Publicising allegations of corrupt conduct

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Discussion Paper. Queensland Law Society appreciates being consulted on this important issue.

This response has been compiled with the assistance of the Occupational Discipline Working Group who has substantial expertise and practice in this area.

We now provide our feedback on the Discussion Paper.

The Society is of the view that publicising allegations of corrupt conduct may be fraught with potential misuse and may result in irreversible damage to individual's reputations if the complaints are found to be baseless and/or vexatious.

QLS submits that maintaining a requirement for confidentiality in the assessment stage of complaints will assist in deterring baseless or politically motivated complaints. Not only should there be confidentiality by the Commission, but there should be an obligation that the complainant must be prohibited from publishing the fact of their complaint.

In the view of the Society, the only exclusion to this confidentiality would be where the Commission has given a clearance based upon public interest factors, and only after the Commission has accepted that the complaint has a base for further investigation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this issue.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact

Yours faithfully

Bill Potts
President