



June 2016

Making allegations of corrupt conduct public

Is it in the public interest?

Submission form

Lodging a submission

Send your submission to us by **5pm Thursday 30 June 2016** by any of the following methods:

Online: <www.ccc.qld.gov.au/publicisingallegations/>

Post: Publicising allegations
Crime and Corruption Commission
Policy and Research
GPO Box 3123 Brisbane Qld 4001

Email: publicisingallegations@ccc.qld.gov.au

Fax: 07 3360 6333

We may not consider late submissions.

Do you wish to maintain partial or complete confidentiality?

We will generally publish submissions on our website — including the name of the submitter but no contact details. If you would prefer to maintain partial or complete confidentiality, please indicate your preference by selecting one of the following:

- NAME WITHHELD — PARTIAL CONFIDENTIALITY**
I consent to my submission being published on the CCC website, without my name being disclosed.
- CONFIDENTIAL — COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY**
I do not consent to my submission being published on the CCC website.

If there is no clear selection of one of these alternatives, we will regard any submission (including an anonymous submission) as a public document, and will publish it on our website.

The CCC may quote from your submission or refer to it, either generally or individually, in publications.

Privacy statement

No submission marked as confidential will be published on our website. However, any submission may be subject to disclosure under the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009*, and applications to access submissions will be determined in accordance with those Acts.

If you provide your details, we may contact you to ask whether you consent to further consultation for the purposes of this project.

Your details

Provide as much or as little information as you wish.

Name(s):	Shane Doherty				
Organisation:					
Address:					
Phone:		Mobile:		Fax:	
Email:					

Your submission

You may wish to address the following considerations in your submission.


Open, transparent and accountable government


Either a government is open, transparent and accountable or it is not. It cannot be 'mostly open' any more than our media can be 'mostly free' Thomas Jefferson said Americans' liberty depended on the freedom of the press and that cannot be limited without being lost. He's right. Moreover governments and law enforcement agencies are the last ones who should decide what is published and what is not. They have too much power already.


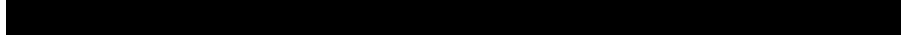
Freedom of speech

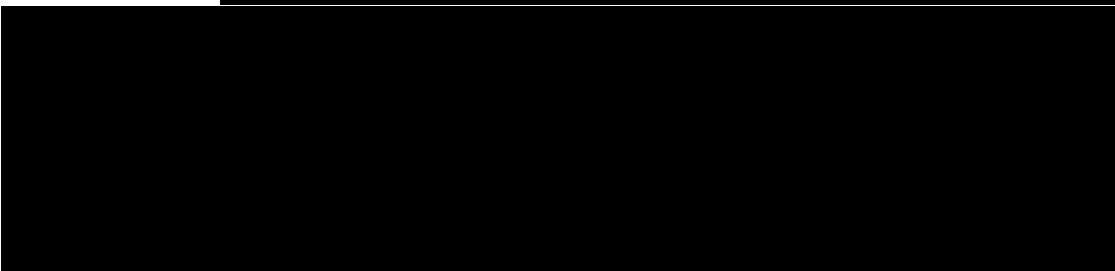
Australians do not enjoy freedom of speech or freedom of the press as Americans do. There are consequences for what we publish. People who are defamed have extensive recourse in the courts and a high probability of success. Sufficient laws and punishments exist keeping the media in check. We don't need more. To those who would impose more limits on what the media can and cannot say I would say 'who the hell are you to decide? Who died and made you Kim Jong-un? Down this path is dictatorship. Get off it.

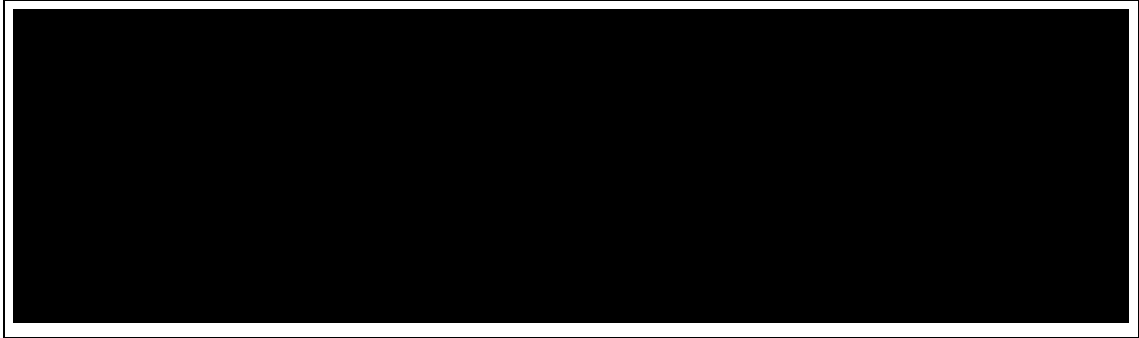
Reputation of alleged subject officers



The job of journalists then was to present the proposition that was being forwarded and provide the information so that the reader, viewer or listener, could form a view as to whether the proposition was true. 

 Journalists ask those making the claim to prove it. 





Fair trial

Adequate and quite onerous redresses exist to protect Fair Trial.

Effectiveness of the CCC

Not many journalists working now were working in 1989 as I was. Not many were there when the CMC was born as I was. Not many have dealt with its many forms and chairpeople as I have. So forgive me when I tell you the CCC ain't what it used to be. It deserves the title of Queensland's Secret Police. Fitzgerald set you scaredy cats up first and foremost as his standing army against dirty politicians and crooked cops. What happened? You've shrunk from the spotlight like vampires from sunlight. Every...single.... media release ends with 'no further comment will be made' The CCC should welcome the opportunity to comment, shout, sing and dance and in all other ways promote its work if for no other reason than to let the bad guys know you're still out there and you've still got teeth. And now this hand wringing over whether you ought to swing in to protect people running for high public office from dummies like me. If the CCC doesn't like something it's seeing SPEAK UP! Get into the fight. Think what happened to Steve Jones is abysmal? Say so. That day. What the CCC thinks and says counts for something. Or it used to.

Other

Journalists aren't perfect. Increasingly so. But there's maybe a handful of us this old still working who have to stand up when our freedoms are under attack so here I am. I notice some media outlets made a combined submission. They probably got a lawyer to write it for them. Chest-shavers. I have looked into the nicotine-stained glasses of giants of my profession who showed me its outstanding feature: it's a devotion to journalism itself. Who would volunteer for this largely under-paid and over-stressed life if they didn't believe - almost religiously - in the right to know? That is our reward. When the day is done if we can say to ourselves I told people something I think they ought to know then that is a good day. I remember the great crime reporter Brian Boulton. The Eagle walked as easily with crooks as cops and told their stories with equal awe and empathy. He drank and wouldn't survive a modern HR department. Knowing what happened at the Whiskey Au Go Go both hallowed

him out and shattered him. But I would sooner trust Eagle to judge what is and is not in the public interest than anyone on a government payroll. There's nothing in it for us but that drive to inform which is not a claim that can be made by the best-intended bureaucrat or politician. Fitzgerald himself says there would have been no inquiry but for the work of journalists. There would be no commission without the work of journalists. How many commissions of inquiry have been sparked by lawyers? None. Although the journalist who started it and covers it walks away at the end with no boost to his pay packet or worthwhile career advancement. He's happy doing what he came there to do. Sucker. We have to leave it to journalists - and the market - to decide what is and isn't in the public interest especially in the heat of an election campaign if for no other reason that all other choices are worse.



Crime and Corruption Commission
QUEENSLAND

Crime and Corruption Commission
GPO Box 3123, Brisbane QLD 4001

Level 2, North Tower Green Square
515 St Pauls Terrace,
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

Phone: 07 3360 6060
(toll-free outside Brisbane: 1800 061 611)

Fax: 07 3360 6333

www.ccc.qld.gov.au