

Whistleblowing: Betrayal or Public duty?

A Conference in Sydney, 6 August 2002

Organised by Transparency International Australia in cooperation with the Edmund Rice Business Ethics Initiative, Corruption Prevention Network and sponsored by KPMG Forensic.



Whistleblowing: Betrayal or Public duty?

Whistleblowing continues to be an important - and sometimes the only - way in which corruption, fraud and maladministration are revealed and accountability is achieved.

An effective whistleblowing regime should be an integral part of the internal accountability of every organisation, public and private. This is not the current situation in many cases.

Even where the regulatory framework exists, whistleblowers are often seen as disloyal and they frequently suffer discrimination and victimisation by their co-workers and/or employers.

Australia is not immune from this negative perception. Recent ICAC research revealed that two-thirds of NSW public sector workers expect to suffer if they report corruption. It is unlikely that private sector employees' views differ greatly.

Negative consequences are even more likely when whistleblowers resort to disclosure to a watchdog agency or to the media.

At the same time, unfounded and malicious allegations need to be dealt with appropriately.

This timely and important conference will examine the role of whistleblowing in achieving accountability in both the public sector and in business, why there are so many negative perceptions - and experiences - and what can be done to improve the situation.

Numbers are limited and registrations will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis.

Topics covered include:

- is there a problem;
- changing the culture;
- role of watchdog agencies; and
- role of media and NGOs.

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Commissioner Sitesh Bhojani**, ACCC
- **Greg Chilvers**, Police Association of NSW
- **Quentin Dempster**, broadcaster and author
- **Graham Evans**, BHP-Billiton
- **Dr Brian Martin**, Whistleblowers Australia
- **Ron McLeod AM**, Commonwealth Ombudsman
- **Keiran Pehm**, ICAC, NSW
- **Brett Warfield**, KPMG Forensic

About the organisers and sponsors



TI Australia is a member of Transparency International the global movement against corruption in over 85 countries. TI promotes transparency and accountability in both public and private sectors. For further information see: www.transparency.org.au



Edmund Rice Business Ethics Initiative exists to promote a conversation between business and the community on the subject of values and ethics in the workplace. For further information see: www.erc.org.au/busethics/



Corruption Prevention Network is NSW-based and seeks to provide those involved in preventing fraud and corruption with a broad range of opportunities to exchange information and ideas. For further information see: www.corruptionprevention.net

KPMG Forensic assists organisations to deal with commercial disputes, litigation and the investigation of fraud and other illegal activity. For further information see: www.kpmg.com.au

Who should attend?

- senior public and private sector executives;
- HRD specialists;
- compliance and fraud prevention officers;
- public affairs officers;
- lawyers, accountants and other professionals;
- investigative journalists; and
- concerned citizens.

Where: **KPMG Centre Auditorium**
Level 27
45 Clarence Street Sydney

Date: **Tuesday 6 August 2002**

Time: **8.45 am to 4.30 pm**
(registration/coffee
from 8.15 am)

Light lunch and refreshments provided.

Contacts

Registration

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Programme and TI information

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Whistleblowing: Betrayal or Public duty?

One day conference in Sydney on Tuesday 6 August 2002

Outline programme

Registration and coffee

Session 1: Whistleblowing: Is there a problem?

Should whistleblowing be encouraged and protected and is it?

Chair: David Landa, Transparency International Australia

- Commissioner Sitesh Bhojani, ACCC
- Brian Martin, Whistleblowers Australia
- Greg Chilvers, Police Association of NSW
- Discussion

Coffee break

Session 2: Whistleblowing: Changing the culture

How to encourage internal whistleblowing and to discourage malicious and unfounded allegations, the role of hotlines.

Chair: David Van Homrigh, Partner KPMG

- Graham Evans, BHP-Billiton
- Brett Warfield, KPMG Forensic
- Discussion

Lunch

Session 3: Whistleblowing: The watchdog agencies

The role of watch-dog agencies in encouraging whistleblowing particularly in relation to fraud prevention and investigation.

Chair: Ken Robertson, Corruption Prevention Network

- Ron McLeod AM, Commonwealth Ombudsman
- Keiran Pehm, Deputy Commissioner, ICAC NSW
- Discussion

Tea break

Session 4: Whistleblowing: The role of the media and NGOs

What happens when internal mechanisms don't work?

Chair: Peter Rooke, Transparency International Australia

- Quentin Dempster, broadcaster and author
- Discussion
- Wrap-up