

# WHISTLEBLOWERS ACTION GROUP QLD INC

## PRESS RELEASE

### **THE CMC HAVE GOT IT WRONG AGAIN: CORRUPTION CONTINUES; FORMER POLICE OFFICERS ARE DOING MORE TO COMBAT CORRUPTION THAN THE CMC**

The CMC have got it wrong again according to the Whistleblowers Action Group (WAG).

The CMC's belated report, 'Dangerous Liaisons', does not mean that the WORST Police are now out of the service, as Chairman Needham has told The Sunday Mail (*Bad Cops to be kicked out fast* on 26 July 2009). WAG claims that 'Dangerous Liaisons' only serves to show, yet again, that it is the BEST police who are now out of the QPS.

Former Police Inspector and key Fitzgerald Inquiry whistleblower Col Dillon is one of the principal examples of a great policeman, forced out of the QPS, who continues to lead the efforts against corruption.

Two years before 'Dangerous Liaisons', Dillon made public statements (May 2007) about the extent of corruption across the whole of government in Queensland. His comments by no means excluded the Queensland Police Service. This whistleblower claimed that matters across the whole of government in Queensland were now far worse than ever they were before.

He was immediately criticized by the Police Minister and challenge by the Police Commissioner. CMC Chairperson also came on the record and said "I doubt that Col would have anything to say about corruption today". Only Terry O'Gorman, one of Queensland's most prominent lawyers, suggested that, given Col Dillon's credentials, perhaps we should listen to what this hero of the Fitzgerald Inquiry had to say.

'Dangerous Liaisons', Operation Capri, and another Minister in prison, appears to be evidence that Col Dillon was right. This 'late mail' report from the CMC shows that this key Fitzgerald Inquiry Witness, who gave evidence of corruption then when many of his colleagues did not, and who appears to have been forced out of the QPS, still seems to be more knowledgeable about corruption in Queensland than the CMC.

In May 2007, Commissioner Atkinson decided to challenge Col Dillon, publicly, to either report what he knew of corruption to the police service or alternatively report it to the CMC. Col Dillon promptly responded with a reply in kind, making a single reference to a set of allegations being pursued with the QPS by another former police whistleblower. It was the Commissioner Atkinson who may have blinked, as the QPS seemed unable or very reluctant to make a response and counter Dillon's assertions of corruption.

WAG states that two hundred journalists in government, and a media that appears to be failing to expose official misconduct (as occurred also before the Fitzgerald Inquiry), continue to build the façade about non-existent post-Fitzgerald corruption in Queensland. The disappointment in the

Fitzgerald Inquiry by the honest members of the police who made their disclosures, and who sacrificed their jobs and careers for that Inquiry, has been given little voice:

1. The Inquiry made little inroads into the illicit drugs industry
2. Honest police started withdrawing from association with the Fitzgerald Inquiry because of concerns about certain behaviours by some colleagues
3. The QPS moved under the management of officers most of whom had not seen any corruption during the Lewis era. If they had seen the corruption, they did not report it at the time
4. Prominent police whistleblowers came under unyielding pressure to resign

The ousting of the best police may also have begun during the period of the Inquiry. Col Dillon's history is the most telling example:

1. He (and others) were left off the list, in The Fitzgerald Inquiry Report, of the officers who served on the Police team on the Commission's Staff
2. He was passed over for promotion by officers who saw no corruption during the Lewis era. When his appeal was successful, he was promoted but then forced to report to a public servant whose ranking and level of service was far below that of the rank of an Inspector of Police which Dillon was. This reporting process was contrary to the normal course of reporting through the police chain of command, a demeaning process designed to demoralize and break his spirit
3. When Max Bingham's Report (into the review of the post Fitzgerald QPS) called this treatment of Col Dillon as '*anomalous in the extreme*', the report was written removing Col Dillon's name and identifying him instead by his position. The QPS and the CMC officers did nothing to address the treatment
4. Nothing was done a second time when Inspector Dillon was left in a corridor gulag – no duties, no title, no desk, phone, computer or office. This was how he exited the police service after serving a distinguished career spanning 36 years
5. When this treatment by the QPS and the CMC was disclosed by others to the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee, they released the disclosure with all references to COL Dillon blanked out and left as spaces on the page.

The risk, with the post Fitzgerald QPS having senior managers who saw no corruption during the Lewis era, is that the same officers might not see any corruption in the post-Lewis era either. Certainly when Max Bingham drew attention to what was happening to Col Dillon in the QPS, nothing was done by the CMC or the QPS to protect the whistleblower.

WAG has made the assessment that the corruption in Queensland may now be so entrenched that it is beyond the capacity of the government and media of Queensland to address it. Only intervention from outside of Queensland may have the capability to assist this State to the less systemic forms of corruption.

WAG understands that 'Dangerous Liaisons' may only have occurred because of pressure from an external agency, namely, from the Australian Federal Police. This would confirm WAG's assessment.

WAG claims that QPS would have been able to do its job if its 'best' were still members of the service, rather than doggedly pursued and driven out of that service.

The post-Fitzgerald industry, however, is unlikely to reflect upon what has happened and what is happening. Their blinkered script was written long ago, but the facade can not be continued for much longer.

WAG asserts that there is a very large elephant in George Street. Its tail is at Parliament House, and its trunk is at Police Headquarters. A hind leg is standing outside the Executive Building, and another is at the Justice precinct. Just as when the former Minister for Police, Russ Hinze notoriously took the media looking for brothels in the Valley and could find none, no authority in George Street will look at the large elephant.

WAG stated that not even government / CMC funded whistleblower researchers reported seeing the elephant.

Eminent lawyers from other states can see the elephant. Academics from other parts of the world conduct studies and write publications about the elephant they have seen in Queensland.

This week, the Post-Fitz industry is having another back-slapping 'glowfest' in Brisbane, at the Sofitel Hotel not far from George Street.

WAG expressed the hope that some visitor from another jurisdiction notices the elephant while at the anti-corruption CMC / ICAC / CCC conference, and asks the obvious question about the state of health of law and order in Queensland.

POC is G. MCMAHON (Secretary) - Mobile: 0411 757 231; Phone 07 3378 7232.