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Submission No.	131
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Hon Peter Slipper
Chairman
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
BY: LACA

Re: Submission re Inquiry Into Older People and the Law

I note the terms of reference apply to persons over 65 years of age (I am 77) and also apply to fraud, financial abuse, discrimination and barriers to accessing legal services.

In this regard I am enclosing a copy of my letter of complaint of the 26th March 2007 to the Commonwealth Minister for Police, Senator David Johnston, to which I have not yet received a reply.

The ongoing complaints made in relation to _____ and _____ also relate to fraud, financial abuse and problems relating to the handling of serious legal complaints by persons on the Commonwealth Government payroll concerning serious breaches of Commonwealth laws.

It is discriminating to try to force older Australians, often in ill health to go to court just because some Commonwealth regulatory bodies are too lazy to enforce the law particularly when it is the duty of the Commonwealth and not older Australians to enforce criminal laws.

Moreover my understanding is that under public service legislation, standards, values and Codes of Conduct, serious complaints must be handled fairly and honestly by persons on the Commonwealth Government payroll.

With regard to this I can also provide irrefutable documentary evidence to the Committee to demonstrate that serious complaints have been largely ignored over a long period of time and neither handled fairly nor honestly nor handled in accordance with Commonwealth law.

I urge members of the Committee, if they really do care about the welfare of older Australians to include in their report to Parliament a recommendation that the Commonwealth establish a "Corruption" Commission similar to those operating successfully in Queensland, NSW and WA.

Yours Sincerely
Berryl Glasson

Hon Peter Slipper
Chairman
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Re: Submission re Inquiry Into Older People and the Law

I refer to my submission dated 27th June 2007 and as an addition to that submission, attach a copy of my letter of complaint dated 3rd April 2007 to the Commonwealth Minister for Police Senator David Johnston concerning the criminal offence of perjury (related to my letter of 26th March 2007) to which I have not yet received a reply.

I am now attaching for the Committees serious consideration copies of the following correspondence from the Commonwealth Attorney-General the Hon Phillip Ruddock.

(1) Letter dated 27th March 2007 to Peter Neil (lawyer aged 67 years this month. Mr Neil although suffering from a chronic heart complaint, will also be making a separate submission covering other serious issues also within the Committees terms of reference.)

(2) Letter dated March 2007 to myself.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General Phillip Ruddock expresses serious concerns which I respectfully suggest should also be a great concern to all members of the Committee.

The Commonwealth Attorney -General states (letter 27th March 2007) :

"The laws governing the the conduct of legal practitioners are administered by the States and Territories and complaints about lawyers conduct are dealt with initially by the professional associations established in the States and Territories."

What a shocking unjust system where you have legal trade unions investigating complaints against their own members so you automatically have a serious conflict of interest and sometimes a serious coverup of very serious complaints about serious breaches of Commonwealth laws to the serious disadvantage of all Australians.

The States complaints bodies are sometimes too parochial and not always fully independent of the legal trade unions so Commonwealth intervention is urgently needed as complaints often also involve serious breaches of Commonwealth laws.

One of the problems we have had is lawyers for corporate criminals aiding and abetting their clients in hiding / or destroying key documents which is referred to in the Commonwealth Attorney-General letter to me received March 2007 (attached)

As Phillip Ruddock says in his letter to me:

"In any event I am very concerned about this issue and I will seek to raise this issue with my State and Territory counterparts as part of our ongoing discussion on the national legal profession project."

Perhaps members of the Standing Committee may be able to inform me what happened (if anything) as a result of these ongoing discussions as it also affects Older People and the Law.

I respectfully suggest that members of the Committee should be just as concerned as Phillip Ruddock, as what hope do any older Australians have at all of obtaining justice in fraud cases involving Commonwealth laws when lawyers under the present complaints system are allowed to continue to get away with aiding and abetting clients to hide or destroy documents in order to win cases for corporate wrongdoers.

Yours Sincerely,
Berryl Glasson