

Submission No.....	28
Date Received.....	

The Chairman
House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Australian Government
CANBERRA

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18 AUG 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

Whistleblower Protection

BY: LACA

Whilst your Committee asks the question what laws are required for whistleblower Protection, this Australian Aged Pensioner Citizen would make the point that the legal system is quite adequate, however, the real issue is access to that system inhibited by bullying and victimisation. Indeed, the lifelong Australian experience of the Writer is that not only does it impact on the person themselves, but through every daily interaction, continuing in its effect on the children of such whistleblowers. The issue is Australian culture.

Australia is a developed economy and therefore is highly structured. Within these structures, upon a person's initial interaction, psychological 'feelers' are put out as to the person's character. Relative to the Writer's status in every area of Australian life from family, employment (two levels of Australian Government), tertiary training and interaction, and societal and community involvement, one is categorised and awarded status according to the current objectives relative to the then law of that situation. Australia is a 'can-do' society, indeed its very successful global survival has demanded this ethos relative to its distances from global market places and within Australia, and as a result 'we' have been burdened with three levels of government that now regulate 'us' down to the n'th consideration. Therefore, more laws can only complicate further the 'minefield' that 'we' have created for ourselves.

The real issue is access to the knowledge of those laws and how to apply them to our daily lives, especially when our lives intersect with other Australians. We all know the 'labels', 'Oh, her or him,' 'He, or she, knows nothing!' 'He or she will agree because they have no option!' etc etc etc. The barriers to legal aid, knowledge of the law limited to the professional classes, prohibit the average battling Australian citizen from achieving little more than just survival in this supposed Land of Opportunity.

It would be very convenient and easy if just implementing some laws could overcome the systematic marginalisation of those 'not wanted' in our socio-economic Australia. But the reality is that all too often when one asks for help with 'our' complex exacting laws, especially when dealing with family members who one is supposed to trust, meaningful help is ^{not} given by supposed 'professionals'. Personal examples of the Writer's lifetime experience where Doctor's, Teachers, Solicitors failed to adequately represent the Writer's interests in favour of her Adversory (because of their superior status) can be given, should the Committee so request. And indeed, in all these cases, the Writer believes that had her best interests been adequately represented, life in this Land of Opportunity would have been completely different. Indeed, no doubt she would not be a liability on the current Federal Government as an Aged Pensioner! Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Yours faithfully (MRS DAWN EDA PHILLIPS, B.A)

P.S. On submission Whistleblower Laws

One should not have to state the obvious to those who make the laws, but even Big Business on ABC National Radio this morning said that taxes in Australia were not the real barrier for doing business, but the proliferation of laws and the difficulty in compliance.

The two double page vignettes written by John D MacDonald from his book, The Empty Copper Sea simply describes the problem faced by Australians of all status with their daily lives. The private has become the public, and the public is increasingly regulating the private to the point where one is like a dog chasing its tail just trying to comply. But you yourselves, as the source of these LAWS (that we proudly live by) should really not require being informed! This publication was by J.B. Lippincott Company Philadelphia and New York, 1978