



QUEENSLAND COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

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Watching Them While They're Watching You

MEDIA RELEASE BY TERRY O'GORMAN VICE-PRESIDENT, QUEENSLAND COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Crime and Corruption Commission needs a makeover based on its Victorian equivalent, IBAC, to ensure its Police oversight role remains fit for purpose.

This call was made today by Civil Liberties Council Vice-President Terry O'Gorman at a Seminar at Queensland Police Headquarters marking the 30th anniversary of the Fitzgerald Report.

"The CCC's budget and operational focus is skewed towards its super police force/organised crime role and dealing with maladministration and corruption in the public sector including Local Councils", Mr O'Gorman said.

Mr O'Gorman said that the CCC's Police complaints monitoring and oversight role is in need of a fundamental restructure along the lines recommended late last year by IBAC's supervising Parliamentary Committee.

"After a 15 month inquiry into Victoria's IBAC a Parliamentary Committee called for the creation of a new dedicated Police Corruption and Misconduct Division within IBAC that is properly resourced to investigate Police complaints", Mr O'Gorman said.¹

The Victorian Parliamentary Committee concluded that "Inserting a similar new Division into IBAC will ensure there is an equal focus on oversighting Police conduct as there is with the investigation of corruption and maladministration within the Public Service", Mr O'Gorman said.²

Mr O'Gorman said that this observation is equally applicable to the CCC Police oversight role in Queensland.

"The 2015 decision by the CCC to sign off and agree with the QPS decision not to charge a number of Police with criminal offences for a bashing caught on Police CCTV of chef Noa Begic was a post Fitzgerald low point and represents a fundamental failure in the CCC's oversight role of Queensland Police", Mr O'Gorman said.

¹ See ABC News Online by Zalika Rizmal 4 September 2018

² Ibid

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Mr O’Gorman said that while this occurred before the current CCC Chair Alan MacSporran QC took office, the Begic decision showed up the CCC as “curiously incurious”.³

Mr O’Gorman said it was no answer for the State Government or the CCC to say that a Bill currently before the Queensland Parliament reforming the police discipline Court/Tribunal process for the first time in 30 years shows that any problems with the CCC oversight role are being addressed.

“The Police Discipline Reform Bill currently before the Queensland Parliament addresses the Court or Tribunal end of the CCC Police complaint oversight role. It does not address the current problem of the overwhelming number of complaints against Queensland Police being investigated by the QPS and leaving the CCC with only a monitoring role”, Mr O’Gorman said.

Mr O’Gorman said there is still too much of the ‘Police investigating Police’ model currently operating in Queensland.

“This model has been found by the Victorian Parliamentary Committee as not working with IBAC. It is not working with the CCC”, Mr O’Gorman said.

“With the CCC performing a role in Queensland that is performed in New South Wales by three separate bodies, namely ICAC, the New South Wales Crime Commission and the New South Wales Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the new proposed Division for the CCC is well overdue”, Mr O’Gorman said.

Mr O’Gorman said that just as the Victorian Parliamentary Committee in recommending a new dedicated Police Complaints and Misconduct Division within IBAC noted that that will require more funding, so the similar proposed new Division within the CCC will require additional funding from the State Government.

“If after 30 years the Court/Tribunal process for hearing complaints against Police has now been revamped, after 30 years the investigating process leading to putting Police before a Court or a Tribunal needs a new standalone properly funded Division of its own within the CCC”, Mr O’Gorman said.

**Mr O’Gorman can be contacted during business hours on 07 3034 0000
or after hours on 0418 787182**

**Note: Mr O’Gorman’s presentation at this Seminar
is expected to start at about 11:15-11:30am**

³ See Terry Sweetman Courier Mail