



Whistleblowers Australia

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“All it needs for evil to flourish is for people of good will to do nothing”- Edmund Burke

The Prime Minister
The Hon John HOWARD MHR
Office of the Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

Whistleblowers Australia urges your Liberal-National Parties to announce their policies relating to the transparency of Government and the protection of persons who discover and disclose wrongdoing within organisations and the public sector in particular.

Specifically, we expect your Government to address and comment upon the following issues;

1. Introduction of a Public Disclosures Act at the national level. Australia has no legislation, unlike the US and the UK, that encourages national Public Servants to come forward and be protected while providing evidence of wrongdoing within agencies.
2. An FOI Act that ensures open government. The lack of government and bureaucratic transparency is now totally unacceptable. The current cloaks of secrecy completely undermines the whole process of our democratic system of government. Without access to information as to how we are being governed, there can be no democratic representation. Your government has been singularly instrumental in undermining access to government and the bureaucracy for nothing but political purposes.
3. A Parliamentary Code of ethics for parliamentarians that works and is monitored and controlled by a Parliamentary Ombudsman. The Code would contain sanctions for non-compliance.
4. Question time in parliament must be part of the Parliamentary Code or otherwise controlled by statute. Representatives of electors must have the right to ask questions of the Government and members of the Government must have a statutory obligation to answer those questions to the best of their knowledge, directly, honestly and without obfuscation and evasion. Comments about matters which do not directly answer the question asked must be prohibited.

Your attention and response to the issues raised above is necessary in view of the forthcoming election.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Bennett
National President