



Dear Colleague

Welcome to “*Ethics Overboard – No Apologies*” at Dockside Conference Centre.

Today is the 12th September. Today we reflect as a Nation on a year of significant worldwide and national events. Today we analyse the impact of these events upon the very fabric of our society and in particular - we question whether there has been a shift in the ethical social/cultural environment.

The Corruption Prevention Network is keenly interested in this since ethical standards and expectations are a key platform for effective pro-active corruption prevention activity. If the foundations of that platform are unstable, then we are faced with extensive and expensive reconstruction, repair and maintenance that overwhelms the initial solid engineering effort.

Grave words for grim times. But this conference today will be neither grave nor grim. It is a day for networking; for participation. Be prepared for an interactive day. Margo Kingston will start by helping us examine ethical social/cultural change and by opening the floor to discussion and debate. Peter Riordan will help us understand rogue worship elements in corporate meltdown. While Elvis has not been seen in boardrooms of late, Ned Kelly seems to have made several comebacks.

Greg Smith will address the issue of getting truth into evidence given a scenario where a General Manager of Human Resources alleged he was sacked by the Police Commissioner for “allowing himself to be led in the box”. Mike McNamara will help us handle intense media scrutiny given a scenario where journalist Laurie Oakes asked a Defence chief “do you feel like a dill?” – the answer became career-shattering headlines across Australia the next day.

Today we showcase an exciting corruption prevention initiative – the Probity Assessment Technique developed at the Roads & Traffic Authority and presented by Peter Houston and Dr Stephen Cohen. Stephen Horne and Chris Payoe will challenge us all with excerpts from a Crime & Misconduct Commission video. Be prepared for interaction.

The day will end with Mal Brammer giving insight into investigation challenges during the Rockdale development applications inquiry and drawing out the implications of the inquiry for local government.

For those of you new to the Corruption Prevention Network, it is simply a not-for-profit organisation administered by volunteers, creating opportunities to exchange ideas and information on fraud control and corruption prevention. The CPN e-mail forum lets you directly tap into a vast pool of skills, expertise, wisdom and experience from hundreds of professional colleagues. The CPN is seeking to extend this broader membership both nationally and internationally to make the ready pool of knowledge even larger. Visit our simple website www.corruptionprevention.net to subscribe for free.

The website itself is gradually evolving into a free on-line information resource. It contains papers from CPN Forums and an emerging e-library gathering resource material to make re-inventing the wheel quicker and easier. If you have something to contribute to the library it will be happily displayed. If you know of Internet links that could benefit the broader membership, please notify any committee member and we will add the link to the site.

Most importantly, make the most of today. Listen. Learn. Debate. Participate. Introduce yourself to someone you do not yet know and network, network, network.

Ken Robertson
Chair
Corruption Prevention Network