



INSTITUTE OF
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Media Release

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For Immediate Release

We ignore the Heiner Affair at our peril

Volumes of print and hours of prime media time are continuously being devoted to canvass the issue of the rapidly growing minority of disillusioned, marginalised and often anti-social people in our communities. Where once, they were almost exclusively from minorities, increasingly they are coming from mainstream society.

The Queensland President of the Institute of Management Consultants (IMC), Phillip Enright, said that without a significant circuit breaker, what was confined to graffiti, now escalating to 'the throwing of bricks from overpasses', will ultimately mushroom into home-grown terrorism.

"Everyone in our society, black, Muslim and the economically disadvantaged, must be able to believe we live in a fair State, that justice is not just for the privileged or politically powerful, and that the law applies equally to all" Mr Enright said.

"We all must be able to believe our leaders are committed to delivering a system of government and law to provide that fairness, which in turn supports belief in equality of opportunity. The success of our society in our economic system depends on it.

"The productivity of industry depends on it.

"Every employer, trade union official, HR or management professional will assert every worker and executive, when asked what kind of workplace environment motivates them the most, will respond it is one that is open and honest, where everyone is treated equally. When asked what makes them believe they will get it, again they will all respond, when they can trust their leaders to 'live it' in all their actions with them.

"It is the columns of articles and prime time media stories of the failure of our political and religious leaders to exhibit this values-driven leadership which is producing this anti-social behaviour that threatens our sense of security.

"The Heiner Affair and the facts surrounding it are the most damning, blatant example of the absence of ethical leadership; and both sides of the political fence have perpetuated it; so too have the CJC and the Bar Association.

"In today's media free-for-all, with the increasingly influential and uncontrollable internet, governments can no longer control the flow of information. They are going to have to learn to communicate with the truth, not their 'spun' version of it; and they are going to have to learn to respond ethically to it. There is no other pathway for us to be able to return to a world in which we feel ourselves and our property to be safe.

"As advisors assisting industry and government realise productive and satisfying working environments with effective leadership in cohesive organisations, we join the 6 eminent jurists (the Hon Jack Lee AO QC – Retired Chief Judge at Common Law Supreme Court of New South Wales, Dr Frank McGrath – Retired Chief Judge Compensation Court of New South Wales, Alastair MacAdam, Senior Lecturer, Law Faculty, QUT Brisbane, and Barrister-at-law, the Hon R P Meagher QC - Retired Justice of the Supreme and Appeal Court of New South Wales, the Hon Barry O'Keefe AM QC, Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW, former ICAC Commissioner, Mr Alex Shand QC, the Hon David K Malcolm AC CitWA, former Chief Justice of Western Australia) to urge the Queensland Government to appoint an independent Special Prosecutor.

“Such an independent transparent process we believe will restore public confidence in the administration of justice in Queensland.

“As the jurists recently wrote in their letter to former Premier Beattie, ‘At issue is the order by the Queensland Cabinet of 5 March 1990 to destroy the Heiner Inquiry documents to prevent their use as evidence in an anticipated judicial proceeding, made worse because the Queensland Government knew the evidence concerned abuse of children in a State youth detention centre, including the alleged unresolved pack rape of an indigenous female child by other male inmates.’

“That our leaders continue to ignore the assessment of such eminent jurists and (the late) the Right Honourable Sir Harry Gibbs GCMG, AC, KBE, of there being a ‘prima facie offence’, is unacceptable to every fair-minded Australian and those who gave their lives in the belief they were seeking to protect this country so that value would survive.

“What started as an issue of justice denied in 1990, has now also become an issue of leadership and the credibility of the system on which we all depend for our economic and social well being.

“Edmund Burke, the 18th century British statesman observed, ‘All that is necessary for the forces of evil to triumph is for enough good men to do nothing.’

“For too long, good men have done nothing about the Heiner Affair. The danger in it continuing is clear; that it continues to live 17 years on, is proof it must be addressed now for our society and the leaders of our institutions upon which we depend, to have any credibility.”

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