

# WHISTLEBLOWERS AUSTRALIA

## NEWS LETTER

Founder: John McNicol  
President: Dr Jean Lennane  
Vice-President: W. Toomer, V. Neary  
National Director: Vacant

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On July 1991, Whistleblowers Anonymous, now Whistleblowers Australia was launched in Canberra and during the last two years a great deal of achievement has been made. Much more needs to be accomplished and this can be only achieved through a united effort on the part of every member.

Due to ill health and on medical advice John McNicol has had to resign as National Director. A candidate for the position has been nominated. Should there be any other nominations please advise Dr Jean Lennane by August 14, 1993.

The National Board Meeting is planned to be held at the Canberra Club, West Row, Canberra (near the GPO) on September 4-5, 1993. There will be considerable amount of matters to be discussed and the President would welcome any additional items for the agenda to reach her by August 14, 1993.

Many new cases have been reported in recent months and the current situation relating to cases such as Vince Neary's appeal against his dismissal from SRA is to be heard later this month. Telecom is still very much under fire with a Senate call for a public enquiry into the travel rorts. Eddy Saul is very much involved with this Telecom issue. Shirley Phillips has her case against the La Trobe University now being taken up by the Department of Industrial Relations and Mr Keith Hamilton MP for Morwell Victoria is taking this up at the State level. Shirley was dismissed from her teaching post at Bendigo two months ago. Other cases are being constantly monitored.

John McNicol while declining to take on further cases has been approached by a Union body and a private enterprise organisation to advise them relating to possible legislation for those working in the private sector.

Queensland was the first state to introduce a draft bill for Whistleblower protection. It was so badly flawed that it is now being redrafted and likely to be reintroduced in 1994. In the meantime NSW has introduced its Bill due to be debated in September. At the Committee hearing John McNicol argued for an Advice Unit to be introduced. This has been rejected by the Committee and its absence is likely to cause considerable confusion to those being directed to the various investigating bodies.

John McNicol speaking on ABC Radio in relation to NSW Bill condemned the government's proposed action in not permitting a whistleblower who goes to the media to have protection. He argued that a person only became a whistleblower when they went public. To deny them such protection questions the reason for such a Bill. He said "It appears that the Bill is there to protect those within the bureaucracy and not the whistleblower".

### **Contact Addresses:**

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***Just a thought about legislation: United we bargain, divided we beg.***

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**Designed by: V. Vidinovski & Associates, 27 Ashcroft Cres, Monash ACT 2904, Tel/Fax: (06) 291 - 4423; July 1993**