

I will profess immediately to being a relatively ordinary Australian citizen with an understanding of political intricacy which might generously be described as vague. I contribute no comprehensive evidence nor academic insight to the committee by making this submission, so I will not plead a case based upon solid data or historical precedent. With this in mind, what I remain certain of is that for all of the public displays and rhetoric which can be seen on a daily basis; the political body which governs the life and country I hold so dear consists entirely of people. It is despite my ignorance that I will claim, as an admirer of my fellow man and a humanitarian, to an understanding of people which might be described in more charitable terms than that of my political understanding.

I believe this simple fact, more than any tangible data or past event, constitutes a sufficient argument for an investigation into existing anti-corruption measures, and the subsequent establishment of a national integrity commission should these existing measures be found wanting.

As a student of the physical sciences, I understand that great care is taken with the scientific method to mitigate the ill effects of bias. Upstanding scientists are fully aware that even the most rigorous collection of the purest data might be contaminated by their own prejudices, resulting in misleading conclusions which hinder future endeavours and the progress of mankind itself.

In my interactions with my fellow man, and through self-observation, it becomes apparent that every individual, with no exception, has a view of the world they firmly believe is correct. These biases range from far-reaching views of global politics and religion, to the preference of life's simple pleasures over any grander personal gain.

Our politicians, for all of their credentials and authority, remain human; and a trait consistent across members of humanity is to firmly believe that one's own way of things is correct.

With this in mind, I arrive at a sobering conclusion. For many individuals, with their resolute conviction that their way of things is correct, the ends may appear to justify the means. After all, what is a minor subjugation of the proper process if you ultimately serve the betterment of the nation? Better individuals than myself, and better individuals than the esteemed members of the committee, have fallen for this honey trap.

This raises an issue: if many individuals in a body all separately believe that their own vision for the nation is correct, but many of these visions are conflicting or outright mutually exclusive, they simply cannot all be correct. Corrupt action may be taken with noble intentions, but with grievous results

This is why, as an ordinary citizen of Australia, I plead the case for the investigation of existing anti-corruption measures, and the subsequent establishment of a national integrity commission should these existing measures be found wanting.

All Australians, the esteemed members of the committee included, require protection against the actions of individuals who believe that the ends justify the means, and who would be willing to corrupt the political process in order to achieve their own vision without regard for due process or consultation from their own colleagues and the voting members of the public.

Sincerely,

Matthew Keri Williams