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Civil Liberties Australia (CLA) is a national body with members in the NT. Among other activities, we work to make legislation better and to protect Australians from excessive bureaucracy while ensuring proper controls and balances are built in to federal and state/territory systems. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the debate about the best way to avoid and/or reveal corruption in the Territory.

CLA believes:

- An 'ICAC' or similar body is needed in every jurisdiction to minimise corruption.
- The body's powers should be extremely broad, subject only to parliamentary vote.
- While identifying, revealing and ensuring legal action against corruption should be its main focus, an equal emphasis is needed on holding the government and the bureaucracy accountable for doing what they have formally committed to doing (for example, in ensuring government-agreed recommendations of inquiries – or of ICAC itself – are carried out as specified to the agreed timeline). That is, an ICAC should have a monitoring role as well as an investigative role.
- An ICAC is no replacement for or alternative to an Independent Police Complaints Commission. Both are needed to reduce corruption and oppression.
- An ICAC and an IPCC should be staffed by people unconnected with the NT public service and NT police, with rotations of staff at, say 3-5-yearly intervals.

CLA recommends the NT Government makes an arrangement for 'loan' staffing, and cross-staffing, with ICACs of other jurisdictions, and with police IPCCs from other jurisdictions, including the UK.

For those who claim that an ICAC and IPCC may be expensive, CLA believes that allowing corruption, and not taking action already agreed upon, is more expensive. We also comment that both an NT ICAC and an NT IPCC are likely to be self-funding under 'proceeds of crime' legislation operating in the NT.

Yours truly,

Dr Kristine Klugman OAM
President

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