
Victims call for a one-stop-shop FICS: Establish a *Financial Integrity Commission Service* and a *Royal Commission* 3/6/16

On behalf of tens of thousands of ordinary Australians who are victims of devastating white collar crime, **HNAB-AG** calls for the government to meet with us and urgently implement essential action. Helping victims, and averting future catastrophic impacts, needs to be at the heart of investigating and changing the culture of banks and financial services sector.

We have unique experience and insights. Victims are ignored by parliamentarians at the peril of the community and economy. It is imperative we are heard in efforts to build real confidence and genuine trust. Almost all Australians have grievances with banks; however, some people are deeply traumatized by white collar crime which has long been rife.

KEY MEASURES NEEDED IMMEDIATELY:

- 1) establish a victims advisory service for government and industry
- 2) ensure rewards and real protection for whistleblowers who expose corruption
- 3) determine meaningful deterrents and penalties e.g. fines at a significant multiple of money obtained by negligence, deception; repay bonuses; use prison terms etc.
- 4) zero tolerance: permit no chance to move culprits and enablers around industry
- 5) use fines plus banks and regulatory system to pay restitution and compensation; reject in-house sham "independent hardship or compensation schemes"
- 6) create a Restorative Justice-style program to change industry culture
- 7) issue a public notice of every new case while respecting identity of victims
- 8) establish a dedicated competent body empowered to assess cases, award victims, determine penalties and complete the process in a swift timeframe: call it **FICS** – *Financial Integrity Commission & Service* (or, *Financial Integrity Conduct Service*)
- 9) immediately change legislation to halt payment of tax assessed as due, to the amount of a victim's losses, in order to provide a modicum of financial alleviation until restitution occurs
- 10) as a priority, set up a *Retrospective Compensation Scheme of Last Resort* until adequate restitution and compensation mechanisms are in place.

MYTHS NEEDING A BLOW-TORCH:

- **ASIC is competent: NO** - it wasn't before \$120million was cut, so restoring it provides no confidence. Victims have been told to "move on." Stories would shock and appal...
- **FOS helps all victims: NO** – a cap on losses means those worst affected are excluded. FOS cannot compel documents or enforce compensation or restitution. It is limited at best.
- **Lawyers and class actions fight for justice for victims: NO** - legislation protects the rich and industry: it needs radical overhaul; typically victims cannot afford it even if they wish to take the risk; highly stressful action is often protracted over years with the bulk of any compensation typically paying for legal fees and if not successful incurring further loss.
- **It is different to other abuses: NO** – substantial emotional / mental health impacts and stress-related disease related to psychoneurobiological consequences of major trauma occur. The human cost for victims, relationships, family, work, health including suicidality, extends well beyond loss of homes and life-savings or placement in debt or bankruptcy.
- **White collar crime does / will not impact me: NO** – the existing culture means everyone is at risk. Regardless, it costs the economy and taxpayer. More specifically, the human toll leaves all Australians poorer, not just financially but in every measure that makes life worthwhile from a perspective of ethics, care, trust, dignity and compassion.

A **ROYAL COMMISSION** is needed to shine a spotlight on industry culture and systemic issues. It will outline why the inevitable recommendation must be that radical changes are necessary in the banks and financial services sector. This includes provision of restitution and compensation for the anguish and life-altering impacts on victims. If there is any doubt: **ASK VICTIMS OF WHITE COLLAR CRIME. Please meet with us Prime Minister.**