

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Attorney General and Minister for Justice  
The Honourable Jarrod Bleijie  
Media Contact Ashley McDermid and Jaime Wells  
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### **Attorney General to appeal Cowen sentence**

Attorney General and Minister for justice Jarrod Bleijie has instructed the Director of Prosecutions to appeal the sentence of Bret Cowen, who was convicted of murdering Sunshine Coast teenager Daniel Morcombe in 2003 (inter alia)

While any fair minded person would agree with the direction given by the Attorney General for such an heinous crime and the obvious lenient sentence handed down to Bret Cowen, it raises the question of where and when the Attorney General can intervene in matters of law and justice. Having lost our son to a drink driver with a proven record of drink driving back in 1984 I know the heartache that Mr and Mrs Morecombe have endured and will continue to endure for the rest of their days, the loss of a child never leaves you and the person that killed our son walked free. I want this understood because what I want to say is about the position of the Attorney General, not just the Honourable Jarrod Bleijie but all those that have preceded him in that position.

The irony is that this current Attorney General has intervened in a number of judgements handed down from the courts in the public interest which confirms once and for all that his intervention is possible. In this latest intervention where it is claimed that he *instructed* the Director of Public Prosecutions to appeal the sentence of Bret Cowen presumably in the public interest. It is noteworthy that the Director of Public Prosecutions' is an *independent statutory officer* with the emphasis on *independent*. This independence is a claim made by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) yet the Honourable the Attorney General vehemently claims he cannot intervene in the lowest court in the State, namely QCAT so where does the truth lay.

To add further to this puzzle, section 41 of the QCAT Act states very clearly that the Attorney General can intervene in any procedure at any time for the State. The fact that he continually denies that he can intervene leaves many questions unanswered. QCAT and the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal (CCT) before the amalgamation of all the tribunals, continually ruin the lives of aged pensioners living in residential parks but obviously we are neither in the public interest and are not considered part of the State of Queensland. I would add that all other Attorney Generals belonging to the other political party have all made the same claim over the years so the Honourable Minister does not stand alone.

It is reported that there are some 130,000 pensioners living in residential parks in Queensland and yet we cannot attract natural justice, it seems that we have served our purpose by working all our adult lives and are now relegated to non person's status.

It should be clearly understood that these so called independent statutory bodies are funded from the public purse and therefore remain accountable to the public. A body can only claim independence if it relies upon its own funds so the claim of independent public funded statutory bodies is a political hoax.

In the final analysis, the claim by the Attorney General that he cannot intervene in a tribunal proceeding or decision is a total nonsense and is more to do with politics than natural justice. Many pensioner home owners living in residential parks and who have

had the unfortunate experience to seek justice from the Tribunal will openly claim that they believe the Tribunal is corrupt from the top to the bottom and politically protected.

The Housing Minister, the Honourable Tim Mander at a public meeting held at the RSL Maroochydore on the 25 June 2013 was asked a question about the Tribunal in Queensland and his answer was "*that the Tribunal has evolved in a way not intended*".

What has been stated in the forgoing about the position of the Attorney General is all true, what pensioner home owners living in residential parks want from all this is to be treated fairly and given the truth.

If the writer is wrong about what is claimed in this paper then I invite others to prove me wrong and I will graciously apologise.

David Paton