

Answer to question 6:

DP: There is a limit to how frequently complaints are made against a senior manager that can resist the attentions of the CEO (- presuming its not the CEO) ... and the minister. These things creep up the line and if findings are being made by an independent investigator and, I assure you I am independent, [then] the number of times they can be ignored begins to diminish with the passage of how many instances occur ...

DP: ... there's no such thing as a judicial inquiry. At the Commonwealth level there are only three types of activity. There are judicial Court proceedings, parliamentary proceedings, and royal commissions. There's nothing short of a royal commission of the kind that they're doing, you know, on the abuse of children and so forth at the moment. Ah, and I think I can say without much doubt, that you'll never get a Royal Commission, no matter how hard you try and how much you presented because they're too expensive. Ah, and you can see what's going to happen with the abused children. You're going to have... when you've seen the Victoria fire inquiries and all that you get a dozen counsel that are there, you get a counsel assisting and the cost to government is enormous. Now, at the moment there is no case, no matter what you might think, there is no case for the government to spend a hundred million dollars on an inquiry into CSIRO. And they just wont do it. I can assure you that I've been around Canberra a long time and I know the real politic. It's not going to happen. And I think that, we've spoken to the Shadow Minister, and I doubt if she will support a Royal Commission. So you move to the next stage that you can get, and that's what we are. Ah, as far as a Parliamentary Inquiry is concerned, Parliamentary Inquiries don't do individuals. Um, there's never been one which has said now we're going to go out and invite people to come in and talk to us about all their troubles, ah, and then try and analyse it because what most people don't know is that parliamentary inquiries are run on a shoe string. Um, the, a parliamentary committee will have three staff members. Now they're very good at follow up stuff. Um and you're seeing that at the moment with the Defence abuse inquiry. They, they come in after the event and say whether this inquiry has been worthwhile, whether it was well done, you know, and what should follow on from it, ah...

DP: ... And what I'd be suggesting to you ah, guys is that you come with us, and if at the end of it you're unhappy, that's when you look for your Parliamentary Inquiry, because that's the standard practice. Um, if you, if you say no to this and you don't, you know, the people don't come to us, then that's just going to be too easy for CSIRO then to say well there's no problem, we set up this body, they just didn't cooperate with them.

DP: well there may be [cases raised]but they'll be individuals, looking at an individual and nothing flows beyond, beyond the court case. And I think it's terribly important for you to understand the nature of this, and you see it with that Williams' case, um, I mean there's the AAT saying that these people from CSIRO, I preferred the evidence of Mr Williams to the

senior executives, and they suggest that the senior executives have gilded the lily in their evidence and absolutely nothing follows, I mean the AAT won't be there asking questions about what about this finding we've made in relation to Dr Drummond, wasn't it (yeah) um and what's happened as a result. Once the Court or the tribunal has done their job with the individual, completely end of story, and you won't find a Minister, or the Department of Science or somebody like that following up.