

# Integrity in the public sector: reflections on anti-corruption initiatives, gender, and power

Corruption in government damages the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector, and undermines public confidence in government. Studies also show that willingness to 'speak out' about corrupt conduct, faith that concerns will be properly addressed, and fears of retaliation, are influenced by factors such as organisational power structures, gender and perceptions of 'protective boys' clubs.'

Government lawyers have a special responsibility to not only maintain their ethical duties as lawyers, but also uphold public trust through commitment to values such as integrity, impartiality and accountability. This seminar will explore the impact of unethical and corrupt conduct on the administration of government, and on the lives of those who are willing, or are forced to 'blow the whistle'.

Join VWL, together with Russell Kennedy Lawyers for an exciting panel discussion moderated by Joanna Austin, Principal Lawyer at the Independent Board-based Anti-corruption Commission.

## DATE

Tuesday 18 July 2017

## TIME

7.15am for breakfast and networking  
Seminar from 7.45 to 8.45am

## LOCATION

Russell Kennedy Lawyers  
Level 12, 469 La Trobe Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000

## COST

Free for VWL members  
\$10 for non-members

## REGISTRATION

Please register by Friday 14 July 2017

This event is open to members and non-members, and children are welcome.

This professional development activity contains content that may meet the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs of lawyers. If this session does meet your CPD needs according to the LIV CPD Rules 2008 you may claim 1 CPD unit for each hour of attendance (breaks excluded).

## OUR SPECIAL GUESTS ARE:



### DORIS GIBB - ACTING DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH OMBUDSMAN

Ms Gibb joined the Commonwealth Ombudsman in 2013. She oversees several jurisdictions including the Department of Immigration and Border Force, private education providers for international students and the Australian Capital Territory Ombudsman. She commenced her career in the Australian Public Service in 1995 after a career with the Royal Australian Air Force. She has worked in several large agencies leading and delivering public policy initiatives. She is currently the Acting Deputy Ombudsman. Ms Gibb has an Executive Masters Degree in public administration and is undertaking a Graduate Certificate of Law. She is also a convenor of the Canberra ANZSOG alumni.



### PROFESSOR ANONA ARMSTRONG AM – DIRECTOR, RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Professor Anona Armstrong AM is the Professor of Governance and the Head of the Governance Research Program in the College of Law and Justice at Victoria University. She was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the community and education. Her major research interests are evaluation, governance and ethics, and she has supervised over 70 postgraduate theses and published many books and papers on these topics. Her latest research addresses whistleblowing in Australia and Indonesia.

### BONITA MERSIADES – PUBLISHER AND WRITER



Bonita Mersiades is a lifelong football (soccer) fan who happened to find herself working professionally in the game after a senior executive service career in government. As head of corporate and public affairs for Football Federation Australia, she was involved in Australia's bid to host the 2022 World Cup until she was sacked at the behest of the international consultants employed by the bid. She was one of the first people in the world to speak out about the environment of FIFA and within which world football operates, which is now under investigation by the US and Swiss authorities. Like nearly everyone who is seen as a 'whistleblower', she has had everything to lose and nothing to gain.