

The Hon. Tim Smith QC
Chair, Accountability Round Table
15 Loch Street
CAMBERWELL 3124

18 July 2012

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to outline Labor's position on the anti-corruption commission in Victoria.

The IBAC model put forward by the Baillieu Government is just another example of its ongoing contempt for openness, accountability and transparency in government.

The IBAC model developed by the Baillieu Government is significantly different to the model they promised in the lead up to the 2010 State Election.

And it is easy to see why this has occurred with the Baillieu Government having taken the approach of legislating by instalment in establishing the IBAC.

There have now been at least six different pieces of legislation that have gone through the Parliament that impact upon the scope and powers of the IBAC.

And Mr Baillieu has indicated there is still further legislation to come.

The IBAC was meant to be open for business over 12 months ago and yet still lacks a permanent Commissioner or a full suite of proposed powers.

Throughout the development of the IBAC, Victorian Labor has sought to canvas and expose the shortcomings of the model under development.

Many of the issues about which the ART have expressed concern, including the investigative powers have led our arguments in the Parliament.

All of these issues will inform the anti-corruption policy we will put before all Victorians prior to the 2014 election.

Our policies on integrity in government will be based on improving accountability, transparency and integrity in the public sector.

As you will appreciate, the Victorian IBAC laws also apply to the Victorian police force in respect of police corruption and police misconduct.



This is in contrast to the approach in NSW where it is the NSW Police Integrity Commission who has this jurisdiction, and not the NSW ICAC.

It is important that Victorians have anti-corruption machinery that is fit for purpose and capable of preventing and investigating corruption effectively.

As you will note from our parliamentary debates, we have strongly outlined our concerns about the capability of the Victorian IBAC to achieve that end.

In short, the Baillieu Government's IBAC remains incomplete and is not fully operational.

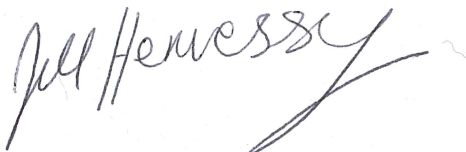
Our principled criticisms of the model are on the public record and reflect similar concerns to that of the ART.

Our election commitments in 2014 will be informed by effective anti corruption models and good public policy in other jurisdictions.

The ART can rest assured that the policy we take to the next election will reflect many of the criticisms we have made of the Government's integrity framework, IBAC included.

I look forward to ongoing work of the ART in being part of that process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Hennessy', with a long, sweeping underline.

Jill Hennessy MP

Member for Altona

Shadow Minister for Corrections

Shadow Minister for Crime Prevention

Shadow Minister for the establishment of an Anti-corruption Commission