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FAX

*ONE OF TWENTY .
7/2/2000*

To: Ms Delwyn Rance
Company: Productivity Commission
Facsimile Number: 03 9653 2305

From: Tony Paynter
Telephone number: 02 9552 4682
Facsimile number: 02 9692 9610

Date of transmission: Monday 7th February 2000
Number of pages including this cover page: TWENTY

Comments:

Dear Delwyn,



Today's facsimile which has also been faxed to the ABA's cash for comment Inquiry and also the offices of the Prime Minister and NSW Police Commissioner - draws a line past which the Broadcasting Inquiry should not cross. The comments on the cover page for the ABA's facsimile are comments that also apply to the Broadcasting Inquiry.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tony Paynter'.

Regards,
Tony Paynter c/- PO Glebe Sydney NSW 2037 Fax: 9692 9610

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FAX

*TWO OF TWENTY
7/2/2000*

To: Mary Breen - John Corker
Julian Burnside

Company: Austn Broadcasting Authority

Facsimile Number: 02 9334 7799

From: Tony Paynter

Telephone number: 02 9552 4682

Facsimile number: 02 9692 9610

Date of transmission: Monday 7th February 2000

Number of pages including this cover page: TWENTY

Comments:

Dear Mary - John & Julian,

Today's facsimile has been faxed only hours before release of the ABA's Report on its cash-for-comment Inquiry. This draws a line that the ABA will be held to by what is in effect the "Tony Paynter Report" which will also apply to the Productivity Commission's Broadcasting Inquiry. Failure by the ABA to make general mention of my submission bringing the evidence in it to public attention in the way I have previously outlined will mean that the ABA members will later prove to be in no uncertain terms an enormous threat to themselves.

Regards.



Tony Paynter c/- PO Glebe Sydney NSW 2037 Fax: 9692 9610

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FAX**THREE OF TWENTY
7/2/2000**

To: Prime Minister Mr Howard
Company: Federal Government
Facsimile Number: 02 9251 5454

From: Tony Paynter
Telephone number: 02 9552 4682
Facsimile number: 02 9692 9610

Date of transmission: Monday 7th February 2000
Number of pages
including this cover page: TWENTY

Comments:**Dear Prime Minister,**

Today's facsimile was meant to be sent on Australia Day but I am running behind schedule for several reasons. A line has been drawn which should not be crossed. Some mitigation could be drawn if the Prime Minister can't help but cross that line - but persuades Veterans' Review Board to revise its decision in my favour placing me above the Henderson Poverty Line and liaises with the NSW Police Commissioner to ensure that he prepares a letter for NSW Housing Department supporting my need to retain my position here with a lease in my own name.

Regards.



Tony Paynter c/- PO Glebe Sydney NSW 2037 Fax: 9692 9610

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FAX

*Four of twenty
7/2/2000*

To: NSW Police Commissioner
Mr Peter Ryan

Company: NSW Police Service

Facsimile Number: 02 9339 5471

From: Tony Paynter

Telephone number: 02 9552 4682

Facsimile number: 02 9692 9610

Date of transmission: Monday 7th February 2000

Number of pages including this cover page: TWENTY

Comments:

Dear Mr Ryan,

Today's facsimile presents evidence against Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Dinnen. In June last year I faxed you quite a few faxes about the situation. Today's evidence is what has transpired from that as per a recent reply concerning his assessment. It would be prudent of you to liaise with the Prime Minister about this matter. Short of the evidence in my latest two submissions coming to public attention - a letter from you for NSW Housing Department supporting my need to stay where I am in this end of Campbell Street and with a lease in my own name would be of assistance in helping to protect the storage of several tons of Federal and State Parliamentary evidence.

Regards,



Tony Paynter c/- PO Glebe Sydney NSW 2037 Fax: 9692 9610

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FIVE OF TWENTY 7/2/2000**Professor Richard Snape****Assistant Commissioner Stuart Simson**

Productivity Commission's Broadcasting Inquiry

Locked Bag 2 Collins Street East Post Office

Melbourne VICTORIA 8003

Tel: 03 9653 2182

Fax: 03 9653 2305

John Corker - GC & Julian Burnside QC

Australian Broadcasting Authority

Cash-for-Comment Inquiry - GPO Box Q500

Queen Victoria Building Sydney NSW 1230

Tel: 02 9334 7700

Fax: 02 9334 7799

Prime Minister - The Honourable John Howard

70 Phillip Street City Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 59 Sydney NSW 2001

Ph: 02 9251 5711

Fax: 02 9251 5454

NSW Police Commissioner - Mr Peter Ryan

14 - 24 College Street Darlinghurst Sydney NSW 2010

Ph: 02 9339 0277

Fax: 02 9339 5471

Monday 7th February 2000

Dear above,

JUNE last year - I faxed many faxes to the Prime Minister
- Mr Howard and NSW Police Commissioner - Mr Ryan
concerning the interview with Consultant Psychiatrist
Dr Anthony Dinnen in Bondi Junction on 17th June.

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SIX OF TWENTY 7/2/2000
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION - BROADCASTING INQUIRY
TONY PAYNTER SUBMISSION - PART TWO

Senator Colston: six-page fax & **Senator Harradine:** three-page fax
 Monday 24th May. **Senator Natasha Stott Despoja:** five-page fax
 - Tuesday 1st June & three-page fax - Monday 7th June & (one-page fax
 - Tuesday 8th June).

Tuesday 15th June

Productivity Commission 22-pages in two faxes. The 22-pages include an eleven-page fax to the **Prime Minister John Howard** & six-page fax to the **NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan**.

Also - **Dept of Veterans' Affairs and Veterans' Review Board and Dr Anthony Dinnen:** one-page fax.

Wednesday 16th June

Three-page fax to three recipients - **Productivity Commission & the Prime Minister John Howard & NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan**.

Wednesday 17th June

Three-page fax to three recipients - **Productivity Commission & the Prime Minister John Howard & NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan**.

Senator Natasha Stott Despoja

Fifteen-page fax - Monday 5th July

includes 12-page fax to three recipients - **Productivity Commission & the Prime Minister John Howard & NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan** on Wednesday 30th June.

Six-page fax - Friday 9th July

includes one-page fax to **Michelle Gravin** on Friday 9th July.

Four-page fax - Tuesday 13th July

includes two-page fax to **Michelle Gravin** on Monday 12th July.

The two above faxes to **Michelle Gravin** follow on from earlier faxes in April & May. **Dr Dinnen:** three-page fax Tuesday 13th April.

Michelle Gravin: one-page fax Tuesday 28th April & three-page fax Thursday 20th May & one-page fax Friday 21st May.

This material includes letters from Dr Anthony Dinnen - Dept of Veterans' Affairs - NSW Housing Dept & Social Worker Michelle Gravin.

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SIX OF TWENTY 7/2/2000

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includes 12-page fax to three recipients - **Productivity Commission & the Prime Minister John Howard & NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan** on Wednesday 30th June.

Six-page fax - Friday 9th July

includes one-page fax to **Michelle Gravalin** on Friday 9th July.

Four-page fax - Tuesday 13th July

includes two-page fax to **Michelle Gravalin** on Monday 12th July.

The two above faxes to **Michelle Gravalin** follow on from earlier faxes in April & May. **Dr Dinnen:** three-page fax Tuesday 13th April.

Michelle Gravalin: one-page fax Tuesday 28th April & three-page fax Thursday 20th May & one-page fax Friday 21st May.

This material includes letters from Dr Anthony Dinnen - Dept of Veterans' Affairs - NSW Housing Dept & Social Worker Michelle Gravalin.

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SEVEN OF TWENTY 7/2/2000

These faxes were

- (1) included in my Broadcasting Inquiry submission PART TWO - and**
- (2) referred to in my ABA cash for comment Inquiry submission PART TWO - and**
- (3) again in my Broadcasting Inquiry submission PART THREE**

with both the latter (2) & (3) including my 64-page submission to Veterans' Review Board & Dept of Veterans' Affairs which had followed on from two earlier submissions the first in mid 1998 and the second prior the June 17th 1999 interview with Dr Dinnen.

The issue raised in my faxes to Mr Howard & Mr Ryan was my concern that the interview with Dr Dinnen would be used to do a hatchet-job on me through the interview for very good reasons.

The assessment on my Veterans' Affairs documents which had stood for twenty-eight years was that I had no psychiatric-illness although I had a nervous behavioural problem termed Personality Disorder.

Dr Dinnen had previously assessed me through my first submission in mid-1998 without a face to face interview as having a PARANOID PERSONALITY DISORDER which in my view through the addition of the word Paranoid to Personality Disorder had converted the original assessment which had stood for twenty-eight years to one that spelt - **psychiatric-illness.**

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EIGHT OF TWENTY 7/2/2000

This assessment was doing a very big favour on behalf of those powerful persons who had everything to fear from the evidence of my submissions to THIRTY-SIX Inquiries over past fourteen years from 1996 to the very present - namely the nation's two foremost media barons who have enough clout - power and influence to allow them to sneakily arrange such an adverse assessment - particularly as I had been set-up with the two rigged assessments by Dr Dinnen through being shunted from long term unemployment benefits onto a disability pension then onto a war service pension - at which time this current appeal was set in train by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Veterans' Review Board which was " an appeal I had to have" whether I wanted one or not.

The reality was that I was - in childlike dependent fashion being led up the garden path to the two Dr Dinnen interviews to an outcome proving favourable to Packer & Murdoch. The political price the Department of Veterans' Affairs & Veterans' Review Board were trying to make me pay for having a war service pension was that I had to have the two assessments made by Dr Dinnen and there would be extra money - only if Dr Dinnen's assessment that I had a psychiatric illness went unchallenged and I was prepared to wear it.

On Wednesday 5th January this year I received the VRB's DECISION made on 17th December attached to a letter from Alex Nera dated Tuesday 4th January that informed me of my right to challenge the decision giving me three months to prepare an appeal through Legal Aid.

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NINE OF TWENTY 7/2/2000

Without

(1) the faxes faxed to the Prime Minister Mr Howard and NSW Police Commissioner Mr Ryan leading up to the June 17th interview with Dr Dinnen and on the day of it and after it - and

(2) HAVING A WITNESS WITH ME DURING THE INTERVIEW which I had arranged with Dr Dinnen's permission prior the interview

Dr Dinnen's assessment would have been far worse adding in effect - Aggressive Psychotic to PARANOID PERSONALITY DISORDER.

This would have posed potentially dangerous consequences for me at the Doctor's office or in the building or after leaving it on that day or at some later time in the future - if I had not taken the precautions I had taken *as I would have had no defence against any criminally-creative foul-play which may have been organised then or later to match-up with Dr Dinnen's "cash-for-comment" assessment through being stripped of all credibility after being assessed as a "violently insane paranoid"* despite fact that I had had no history of violence nor paranoia - none whatsoever in any way shape or form. I had had no need to visit a psychiatrist in my life except twice related to my discharge from the RAAF thirty years ago.

What had initiated my concern(s) for my welfare & safety in relation to the June 17th Dr Dinnen interview last year was that in his first assessment based on my first submission without face-to-face interview - Dr Dinnen had lied to me in a phone call by claiming I had "nothing to worry about as he took everything at face value" which meant that he accepted

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TEN OF TWENTY 7/2/2000

- (1) though my real name is Nick Bellas**
- (2) I am also a researcher who had made nearly 80-submissions to 36-Inquiries over past fourteen years receiving over 440-plus replies many of them supportive letters from a wide variety of prominent persons.**

This lie by Dr Dinnen became evident after I received Dr Dinnen's first assessment assessing me as having a Paranoid Personality Disorder - because Dr Dinnen could only have come to that conclusion if it was the case that my pseudonym and my research efforts were a fraud being perpetrated by me in some bizarre form of sham charade - similar to that of an "Impersonator & Plagiarist all in one" - to "prop-up an immature ego lacking in self-esteem and moral backbone" and when I know that that is not the case - that it does happen to be true that I - "Nick Bellas with pseudonym Tony Paynter" am one and the same person and that the 440-plus replies in relation to my submissions are genuinely mine.

In my recent 64-page submission to Veterans' Review Board & Department of Veterans' Affairs WHICH INCLUDES A TWELVE PAGE FAX TO DR DINNEN I provided statements from **five referees that in sum total establish conclusively that my submissions of evidence are due to my efforts under the pseudonym Tony Paynter and that I am not carrying out a fraud sham charade.**

Dr Dinnen's lie grew bigger when taking into consideration that professionally he was required to retain impartiality in relation to the evidence I was submitting in my submissions. It was his professional responsibility to remain neutral towards that evidence.

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ELEVEN OF TWENTY - 7/2/2000

There were ample positive responses from numerous prominent and eminently qualified persons that made Dr Dinnen's neutrality doubly necessary.

Veterans' Review Board DECISION - which presents Dr Dinnen's two-assessments - claims that his assessment was simply Personality Disorder and omits to mention the word PARANOID that Dr Dinnen had added to Personality Disorder - twice.

I had not only proved that Dr Dinnen's assessment was wrong but also that his assessment was "cash for comment" on behalf of those who for ages have been trying to set up my unfortunate end and that his assessment would add extra assistance helpful to criminal foul play and the covering of it up - also. It also makes Veterans' Review Board & Department of Veterans' Affairs the **Program Directors** in this cash-for-comment affair. Their motive was that

(1) as I was able to prove that Dr Dinnen's assessment was wrong for adding Paranoid to Personality Disorder reversing what had previously stood for thirty years namely - that I had no psychiatric illness

(2) and thus also able to prove - that just like Dept of Vets' Affairs & VRB & DR Dinnen had wrongly tried to set me up with a psychiatric-illness assessment - likewise that's how I was set up with a Personality Disorder assessment in the first place thirty years ago - and that **THAT-TRUTH** was what they wanted kept suppressed.

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TWELVE OF TWENTY 7/2/2000

As the end result of all of this - what I am able to prove is that I had no Personality Disorder in the first place - and that I had a LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCE which could not be addressed but in fact was turned into a living nightmare for me because any attempt on my part to speak up about it was considered to be an act of insubordination - as one wasn't allowed to have an opinion nor a mind for that matter as the premise was that one's mind was owned for them - which was "correctness allowed to exist to allow those in charge to offload their prejudices" in the days when there was no such thing as a Discrimination Commissioner nor Human Rights and Equal Opportunity.

The Contradiction in the original assessment as noted in the recent reply from Veterans' Review Board that being

- (1) on one hand - Personality Disorder - and**
- (2) on the other hand - No Psychiatric Illness**

is explained by fact that I was the victim of massive hidden prejudice and discrimination by what one could now attribute to the "one nation type racist element" and that

- (a) my Nervous Disorder Related Unsuitable Temperament termed Personality Disorder was simply a natural reaction to abnormal pressures - and**
- (b) absence of any Psychiatric Illness supports my claim that my concerns were genuine and legitimate - but that**
- (c) in the climate and culture of the RAAF at the beginning of the 1970s in which the act of one speaking up for oneself was in - of and by itself an act of insubordination meant that I could be put through a nightmare and in Vietnam painted into an insidious corner hopelessly**

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THIRTEEN OF TWENTY - 7/2/2000

snookered and confronted with the grim reality whereby I would have had to murder a large number of fellow Australians "Martin Bryant" style to save myself or allow myself to be murdered or do something "out of the ordinary" which would adverse me enough to guarantee my immediate return to Australia and allow the RAAF to cover up the real story.

NOW thirty-years later - after fourteen years of welfare dependency submerged below the Henderson Poverty Line - the attempt was made through the Dr Dinnen assessment(s) to load me up with PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS in order to not only reinforce and bolster the cover-up of the evidence in my submissions to 36-Inquiries over past fourteen years amounting to approx twenty thousand pages of evidence - but also assist sneaky murder-attempt death traps designed to result in my unfortunate death.

IF the Prime Minister & NSW Police Commissioner in conjunction with the Productivity Commission's Broadcasting Inquiry and ABA cash-for-comment Inquiry do not bring the evidence in my submissions to public attention after receipt of today's fax - then all concerned will be at a later date brought into disgraceful disrepute as you all cannot deny that you have been made aware and cannot use the shield of innocence-based-on-ignorance whilst pointing finger of blame elsewhere lower down the line - particularly as both the Prime Minister and the NSW Police Commissioner attended the Packer Wedding and Kerry Packer attended the Prime Minister's Xmas Party.

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FOURTEEN OF TWENTY 7/2/2000

The Veterans' Review Board could have made a decision in my favour accepting that I had proved Dr Dinnen's two assessments were wrong and awarded me extra above the service pension up to a bit above the Henderson Poverty Line backdated to May 1996 - in order to give me the little lift needed to help me get the evidence to public attention.

Also after twelve years on Public Housing Waiting List and past eight years living in public housing as a guest on someone else's lease - it will be still quite some time before I can gain a lease in my own right at which time I will also be faced with likelihood of losing the secure position I have been able to secure for myself involving a nightmare struggle over past eight years which would treble my vulnerability to creative criminal foul-play.

The following pages present

- (1) One Page of Highly Confidential Information and another page with a news article related to it
- (2) Three pages of news articles about **Psychiatry In The Dock** and one page news article about the corporate betrayal of Australia.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Paynter

(Nick Bellas) c/- PO Glebe Sydney NSW 2037



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THE PERSON WHO FIRST SHOT BRIKHA AND ALLEGEDLY OFFERED A BRIBE - JOHN ASSADOURIAN - HAS BEEN THE 'MONKEY-TICKS' ON MY RIGHT SHOULDER AGAINST WHICH I'VE HAD TO BEATME.

Tow truck driver marked for death

PRICE 20 DAILY NEWS

BY STEPHEN DOWNIE
TOW-TRUCK
A driver gunned down outside his suburban home was aware there was a contract out on his life after burning down a bride.
Albert Briksa told police he feared he would be killed after refusing a bribe to not give evidence in court about an earlier shoot-
ing incident.
Those fears were realised when the father-of-three was shot four times as he returned to his Liverpool home at 11pm on February 20, 1998.



Wal Hung Anthony Lo pleaded guilty to Mr Briksa's murder when he appeared in Burwood Local Court yesterday.
Lo, 37, of Brighton-Le-Saunders, also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to murder, possession of an illegal firearm and a number of drug charges.
In an interview with police, Lo told how he hid in the bushes near Mr Briksa's house on the night of the killing and

The Liverpool home of tow-truck driver Albert Briksa, RIGHT: Albert Briksa waited for him to come home.
"I waited ... for more than 15 but less than 30 minutes," Lo said.
"As [Mr Briksa] approached the wooden stairs, I discharged my weapon at him at least four times.
"I ran from the house and I do not remember seeing anyone."

The court was told Mr Briksa's murder was a contract killing, carried out after Lo accrued thousands of dollars in debts when he allegedly sold drugs for Bassam Turkmani and another man.
The court heard that by 1997 Lo owed the men more than £20,000.
In addition, he had

other debts, including debts on a St George Visa card and to the Commonwealth Bank of up to \$60,000.
Lo alleges that around Christmas 1997, he spoke to Turkmani and the other man and one told him: "Pay up or do a job for us and don't worry about the debt."
"In conversations I

had with [them] they would use terms like 'Put a couple of caps in him' or 'Just do him'." Lo said in the statement.
"I understood this to mean they wanted me to shoot or kill someone."
The court was told Mr Briksa's death followed an incident eight days earlier when Lo tried to entice Mr Briksa from his home to kill him.
And on February 18 a neighbour spotted Lo hiding in bushes near Mr Briksa's home.
Police inquiries revealed Lo's mobile phone had been used in the Liverpool area on February 12, 18 and 20.
As a result of this information, a telephone intercept was set up from September 24, 1998, until Lo was arrested on April 7 last year.
Lo will appear in the Supreme Court for sentencing on a date to be fixed.
Turkmani, 22, a labourer of Chaswood, has been charged with soliciting Lo to murder Mr Briksa.
He has not entered a plea to the charge.

SIXTEEN OF TWENTY 7/2/2000

Monday, January 17, 2000

Bias casts doubt over experts' role

FORENSIC psychiatrists have an important place in the justice system. Their expert evidence is sought to provide a dispassionate evaluation of the psychological effects of workplace injury, for example. It is important that opinions are balanced or their value will be in doubt.

An investigation by *The Australian* has shown the neutrality of expert psychiatric opinion is being undermined by a culture of partiality. This, in turn, leaves the profession open to suggestions of a cash-for-comment situation in the courtroom. The expert may feel responsible to the party paying his or her fee. Alternatively, a lawyer may go shopping for an expert who holds a particular view.

SEVENMAY OF TWENTY 7/12/2000

Forensic tool a hired gun

DAVID BREARLEY

PSYCHIATRY, the subject of sustained public complaint and judicial displeasure, is under intense pressure to lift its game in the witness box.

The matter will come to a head this week when NSW Attorney-General Jeff Shaw considers a survey of medical opinion in which psychiatrists, alone among the specialties, oppose the presence of witnesses when they examine injured workers for court cases.

Such examinations may be held at the behest of employers or their insurance companies, often against the worker's wishes, and have resulted in countless complaints to official health watchdogs.

Investigations by *The Australian* reveal a frightening rate of concern about the role of psychiatric plays in our courts and tribunals.

These centre on the bullying behaviour of some psy-



chiatrists routinely engaged in litigation, the complex financial relationship between psychiatrists and the parties who retain them, and the propensity of our adversarial legal system to engender bias in psychiatric evidence.

Ultimately, they point to a crisis of confidence in psychiatry as a forensic tool.

The *Australian* has learnt: JUDGES identify bias as the single most serious problem when dealing with expert evidence — and psychiatrists as the worst offenders.

agencies continue to deploy notorious

psychiatrists against citizens. LAWYERS maintain detailed dossiers on psychiatrists' performance in court, and accept gifts from those they retain. PSYCHIATRISTS themselves worry about their role in the courts. Some regard certain of their peers as "hired guns" who take cash for comment when giving evidence.

AUSTRALIAN Medical Association guidelines once compared employers' use of psychiatrists with Soviet persecution of dissidents.

SELF-REGULATION is a failed idea. Despite a record number of complaints to official bodies and severe criticism from the bench, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry has never disciplined one of its own over medico-legal matters.

With the flawed testimony of psychiatrist Malcolm Dent

SELF REGULATION IS A FAILURE

Continued — Page 8.
 More reports — Page 8
 Editorial — Page 14

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Doctor says peers pressure referrals

Whistleblowers can be forced to see psychiatrists in order to discredit them

JEAN Lennane, a practising psychiatrist and president of Whistleblowers Australia, believes some of her peers are engaged in a particularly brutal form of cash for comment.

"In the extreme cases it amounts to really serious and damaging abuse of individual patients for money," Dr Lennane says.

"One of the worst things is that some of the hired guns do a hatchet job on people who are already very damaged and vulnerable.

"The hired guns are a minority, but they get quite a lot of the work.

"After a while the courts start saying 'We've had this same report before 20 times about different people and we don't really have much time for the person who's preparing them'. But that takes time."

Writing in the British Medical Journal several years ago, Dr Lennane highlighted the issue of forced referrals.

"Forcing whistleblowers to see psychiatrists in order to discredit them, usually as having a personality disorder that could account for their irrational obsession with malpractice, is reminiscent of Soviet misuse of psychiatry," she wrote.

"If the first psychiatrist's report is unhelpful, the subject can be forced to see another until the

desired result is achieved."

Respondents to Dr Lennane's survey reported a median of three referrals each. "The practice is clearly unethical," she comments. "Coercion



Dr Lennane

invalidates consent."

George Mendelson, vice-chairman of the RANZCP's section of forensic medicine, says there are "obvious dangers" in forced referrals.

"On the other hand, I think there have been instances of people who have a mental illness claiming things to have happened that are really manifestations of the mental disorder," Dr Mendelson says.

"It's a question of whether the public interest is served by it. It's a question of balance.

"Probably the patient or his representative should have some say in who the psychiatrist is. By and large... a psychiatrist should not undertake an evaluation against the wishes of the individual."

Yet frequently they do. The NSW Compensation Court last year forced a workers compensation claimant to see a GIO-appointed psychiatrist, unaccompanied and against her wishes — an outcome that runs counter to NSW Medical Board guidelines.

Reluctance to submit to examination, or requests to record consultations, are regularly cited in reports as evidence of paranoid personality disorder.

EIGHTEEN
OF TWENTY
7/2/2000

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NINETEEN or TWENTY 7/2/2000

THE AUSTIN - THURSDAY 20 JAN 2000 - LETTERS TO EDITOR Profession's dangerously sick culture

THE article 'Forensic tool a hired gun (17/1) is a timely look at the sick culture of Australian psychiatry.

As a general practitioner who has spent many years as a locum, I have read thousands of psychiatric reports. My estimate is that half of these reports were disappointing to say the least. Too often they were factually incorrect, too often the conclusions made were contradicted by subsequent psychiatric opinion and too often the psychiatrist appeared not only to have little empathy for the patient, but was actually hostile and contemptuous.

Thus one of the concerns I have whenever I refer a patient to a psychiatrist is that the interaction may do more harm than good.

However, the phenomenon of the hired gun psychiatrist, the cash-for-comment medical prostitute, is a sinister development that will do considerable damage to the already tarnished image of the profession.

That these professionals often do permanent damage to already vulnerable people is outrageous.

The profession's excuse that this is justified because of its responsibility to the community at large, attacks of hypocrisy and delusions of grandeur.

If they were really concerned about the community at large they would be cleaning up their own profession and promoting a



more equitable distribution of psychiatric resources. There are far too few psychiatrists providing care where it is most needed, such as in the prisons and in economically disadvantaged rural communities, especially indigenous communities.

Conversely, there are far too many psychiatrists (looking after the worried well in the affluent suburbs.

I am aware of two instances where such psychiatrists refused to treat individuals with real mental illness.

It is time that the psychiatric profession put its house in order.

Dr PATRICK BRADLEY
Cremorne, NSW

REGARDING your series of articles on shonky shrinks, if you care to try w/through the judgments you will find that it is the shrinks working for insurers that seem to feel it necessary to go over the top in their reports. The most cost-effective way of curbing the excesses of these corrupt psychiatrists is for the

person being assessed by them to have a support person present during the interview.

Insurers should be obliged to inform the person being assessed that they are entitled to have a support person present during the interview.

Psychiatrists who try to bar a support person being present should not be allowed to conduct assessments for insurers.

There is a word for what is happening in the medico-legal field. It is called corruption.

STEWART DEAN
Dundas, NSW

I READ with interest the stories about the use of psychiatric and other "tools" used by corporate and other well-financed bullies to humiliate, discredit and demoralise litigants standing up for their rights.

It's about time this issue was brought to light in the interest of justice. A further example of these problems can be seen in South Australia's workers compensation system. The scheme is legislated as a no-fault system, but the only winners are the agents running the case management and their lawyers.

The losers are the injured workers, the employers and the state in general, because none of these are getting appropriate services, or value for money so that corporate bullies can increase profit.

While we have insurance companies overseeing the

health, welfare and safety of ordinary people there will never be fairness or justice.

IAN TRINNE
Semaphore, SA

A PSYCHIATRIC assessment placed before a court without an examination of the subject?

This is nothing new here in the Wild West. In a recent legal action here (since settled out of court, so no longer sub judice), an assessment concerning the state of mind of an elderly relative was compiled in evidence. There was no actual examination, for one very good reason.

The elderly relative was dead at the time, and had been so for five years when the assessment was compiled.

GEORGE BROWN
Bayswater, WA

DAVID Brearley (Psychiatry in the Dock, 17-18/1) should be congratulated. He has lifted the lid on a Pandora's box in his exploration of the use — and abuse — of psychiatry in the Australian workplace. Sadly, it is not a recent phenomenon and it is not isolated.

In August 1994, the Senate Select Committee on Public Interest Whistleblowing raised serious concerns about these alleged abuses. Its parliamentary report, in the Public Interest, noted on page 184:

"The committee recognises the extent to which psychiatry

can be used as a means to discredit a whistleblower. There is still a social stigma attaching to mental illness, and it is that stigma which makes psychiatric means of retaliation to an employer organisation.

"Referrals occur at a time when an assessment is being made of an individual who is already under stress as a result of having blown the whistle. The referral of a whistleblower to a psychiatrist can have the following ramifications:

"a) It signifies to colleagues that management regard the whistleblower as 'unbalanced'; thus effectively silencing further dissent and/or support for the whistleblower.

"b) It refocuses the attention of an inquiry from the whistleblower's allegation onto the mental competency of the whistleblower. c) It undermines the self-confidence of the whistleblower ... and d) It casts a shadow on the whistleblower's integrity, soundness of mind, judgment and reputation, both work-wise and personally which, once cast, is almost impossible to remove.

"The committee considers the use of psychiatry in this manner to constitute an infringement of human rights and to be, perhaps one of the most insidious and vile weapons used against whistleblowers."

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Buying Australian - it fits the Bill

By TONY STEPHENS

Dick Smith and Bill Wentworth joined forces yesterday behind the Buy Australian push, arguing that foreign salesmen want that Australians were being bought of their own destiny.

"Australian industry is rotten with foreign investment," Mr Wentworth said.

"Virtually everything in American supermarkets is American-owned," Mr Smith said. "In Japan, about 98 per cent of goods are made and owned by Japanese. In Australian supermarkets, the figure is 15 per cent."

Mr Smith, 55, self-made millionaire and philanthropist, and Mr Wentworth, 92, minister in Federal Liberal governments of the 1960s and 1970s and direct descendant of the pioneering W. C. Wentworth family, emerged yesterday as a dynamic duo defending the destiny of the nation.

Not only is Dick Smith planning to make and sell Ozamate (because the Australian tobacco-based company Philip Morris owns Vegemite), but he will market Dick Smith's peanut butter next month (because Skippy peanut butter comes from the US) and will sell Helicopter Jelly (because the Americans bought the famous Aeroplanek).



... Dick Smith and Bill Wentworth. Photograph by NICH MORRIS

Mr Wentworth said: "If every Australian reduces \$50 a week from foreign-owned and foreign-made companies to Australian, we can save \$20 billion a year and create 500,000 new jobs."

The two men were speaking at the launch of the new Australia Guide at the Australian Companies Institute in Sydney. The guide highlights some of Australia's most famous brands which have been lost to overseas interests - Arnott's, Billy Tea, Big Sister, Bundaberg Rum, Four a Twenty, Mirinda, Speedo, Toolbys, Violet Crumble, XXXX.

The institute's founding president, Mr Harry Wallace, said the \$50 a week would include goods and services ranging from food to insurance.

Mr Wentworth said it was "important to lift the veil of secrecy" over foreign ownership. He said Vegemite, bought by Kraft and now owned by Philip Morris, was a good example. The Herald reported last July that

Mr Smith intended to produce Ozamate, to challenge Philip Morris. Two weeks later, the American company applied to register the trade names Ozamate and Ausente. Mr Smith had already applied to register Ozamate.

"Australians are addicted to Vegemite," Mr Smith said. "They can't stop buying it. Philip Morris might as well take over Anzac Day."

Mr Wentworth said there were two kinds of foreign investment, one which brought new industry to Australia and one which bought up Australian firms. The second was now dominant.

He said the reason the economy looked good was that the country was being sold off, bit by bit. "The current account deficit will be \$37 billion this year. No one wants to stop foreign trade but the accounts must be balanced."

Mr Smith said there were now no Australian baby food companies. "The kids will be well fed but they won't have jobs when they grow up."

There were no Australian matches either. Richards were made in Sweden. As a marketing tool, Mr Smith has produced Dickheads. "We're destined to let all our products go overseas," he explained.

ANSWERS ARE DICKHEADS FOR NOT SEEING THAT THE GETTERBYK/SELL-OUT OF KRAFT IS RESULT OF A CORPORATE-CRIM INSIDE JOB - BECAUSE IF IT WASN'T AN INSIDE JOB IT WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED.

TWENTY OR TWENTY
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DICK HEADS.