'DESKTOP ETHICS'

The Public Sector Ethics Resource

Australian multimedia resources for
Public Sector Ethics -

education, policy, research, reference, and
ethical decisionmaking

Four problems, and two clues

- *1st problem* - public concerns about police corruption, 'whistleblowers' and scandals - not "Grand Corruption". What should be done?

- *2nd problem* - no ethics trainers or materials...

- *3rd problem* - why 'Ethics' ? - morality or philosophy? ...or tradition?

- *4th problem* - whose problem? - the Government's? the PS's ? The individual's?

- two clues - the *Rules of Cricket* , and the OECD-

- **'Professional Ethics for public officials'**...

Goal 1: 'institutionalise' PS Ethics

- *1st solution* - *legislation:* pro-ethics, pro-service, pro-whistleblower, anti-corruption.

- *2nd solution* - *implementation:* education & training, resources, duty, Codes of Conduct.

- *3rd solution* - *professionalisation:* an ethic of role, not personal morality.

- *4th solution* - *institutionalisation:* CEOs and organisations, culture and practice.

Goal 2: develop tools, and resources

- a 'personal ethics trainer' on every desktop*...* - *education*

- policy research & reference resources - *facilitation*

- PS Ethics theory, language, and conceptual resources - *mobilisation*

- ethical decisionmaking support tools - *motivation* [*PSiiche*]

Description

- 'Hybrid CD ROM' - video, animation, sound, graphics, text, hypertext, browser, Internet;
- Consortium - the Public Service Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand, major federal and State agencies; anti-corruption agencies;
- Consultation - 75 people from five countries; OECD; scholars and practitioners;
- $600,000 budget; two years in development; ($3500 per set to public sector buyers).

Description (continued)...

- 5   10-minute 'trigger' videos; multiple issues; choice of endings;

- 35 reference works; 4000 pages of text; 50 case studies;

- all ethics legislation and Codes of Conduct for eight jurisdictions;

- reference materials from OECD; US; UK; Canada;

- 'adult learning' pedagogy, 'Socratic questions'; flexible delivery; competency-based.

Technology

- 'browser' search by ethics concept, context and title;
- hypertext links, search engine, digital video;
  - program runs direct from CDs;
  - instantaneous access to all resources;
  - modular construction.
- Microsoft *Windows* and other standard tools;
- CD ROM, or intranet versions;
- Updates via Internet links, and Webpage - *www.EthicsLearn.com*

Decisionmaking and Justification - *PSiiche*

- ***Principles***… what Principles are relevant ?
- ***Standards***… what Standards are relevant ?

- ***interests***… what interests are important ?
- ***conflicts***… are there conflicts which can be resolved ?

- ***holistic evaluation***…everything relevant considered,
  – on balance …**OK**?

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Multimedia resources for PSE training, education, policy, research, reference, and ethical decisionmaking…

"professional ethics for public officials"...