The Future of Ethics, Professionalism and Whistleblowing

The Future of Professionalism & Ethics
Australian Council of Professions, Members’ Roundtable Forum
Melbourne, 20 November 2018

Dr Wim Vandekerckhove, University of Greenwich, UK
1. The onus is on the professional
2. Can the professional carry that burden?
3. What can professional bodies do to help their members?
The onus is on the professional
How did we get here?

• Specialisation
• Expertise
• Inside knowledge

• Professionalism is a social institution
Can the professional carry that burden?
Whistleblowers face uncertainty & ambiguity

• Before
• During
• After
Figure 1. Questions people ask themselves before whistleblowing.
Figure 2. Questions people ask themselves after reporting a concern

- Why does it take so long? Is there a cover-up?
- Where can I go to when I or someone associated with me experience retribution?
- Is the investigation done properly and independently?
What can professional bodies do?
Figure 3. The value of independent advice
Thank You.

Dr Wim Vandekerckhove