



3 June 2008

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Carlo Carli MP
Chairperson
Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee
Parliament House
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Carli

Re: *Police Integrity Bill 2008*

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the *Police Integrity Bill 2008* to me. I have read the Bill keeping in mind that your enquiry concerns whether the provisions in the Bill unduly trespass on rights or freedom; or are incompatible with the human rights set out in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

The Bill continues/re-establishes the Office of Police Integrity and sets out its functions. While the powers in the Bill are to some extent coercive, this is necessary if the Office of Police Integrity is expected to carry out its important work. I note that Section 8 "Objects, functions and powers of Director" are ... (d) to ensure that members of Victoria Police have regard to the human rights set out in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. Sometimes important human rights issues are in conflict with other public interest issues and must therefore be overridden. It is vital that the public is assured our police officers have high ethical standards and also comply with the law. The Office of Police Integrity plays a central role in protecting the public from police corruption. To do this work well, it requires strong powers of investigation.

While this Bill will override the Charter, I am satisfied that it does not unduly trespass on rights or freedoms.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beth Wilson'.

Beth Wilson
Health Services Commissioner