

Does police culture impede the anti-corruption ideal: an unresolved dilemma

Celeste Lawson
CQUniversity

Police culture

- Determines:
 - Behaviour
 - Beliefs
 - Pressures
- Unique – connected to unique policing role
- Strong – to manage strains of policing

Fitzgerald Inquiry 1989

- Anti-corruption ideal
 - Community policing philosophy
 - Reflected in
 - Structure
 - Regionalisation
 - Civilianisation
 - Legislation
 - Accountability

Police culture in Queensland: Historical profile

- Risk aversion
- Loyalty
- Suspicion
- Conformity

Changing culture

Two views

- Change is impossible
 - Police culture cannot change
 - Persistence of culture

- Change is constant
 - Cultural reform
 - Changing work practices

Paradigm shift

- Style of policing has changed
- Function of policing has remained the same
- “Historical” police culture still exists
 - Conformity
 - Solidarity/loyalty
 - Not negative - necessary
- Paradigm shift within police culture



Celeste Lawson
PhD student
CQUniversity
c.lawson@cqu.edu.au