‘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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“professional ethics for public officials”…