

July 18<sup>th</sup> 2008

Parliament House  
Hobart TAS

Joint Select Committee on  
Ethical Conduct  
The Secretary,

Robert Edwards  
6 Paringa Avenue  
Newnham 7248  
Launceston TAS.  
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Dear Sir,

**RE; Public Servants Conduct**

I have concerns regarding the actions of The Public Trustee.

My wife is sole proprietor of a registered mortgage over a property she inherited from her Mother's estate of which she is sole executrix. The Public Trustee gained administration of her Father's estate by questionable means and have now taken possession of the property and prevent my wife from selling same.

When my wife approached the property she was forcefully excluded and injured by tenants installed rent free in the property. The Public Trustee then changed the locks and locked my wife out. The Public Trustee have nothing but possession of the property, my wife holds the registered mortgage and the original title to the property.

The Public Trustee issued a writ to try and wrest the mortgage from my wife but it has been adjourned sine die for some months though the Public Trustee solicitor keeps it in the Court registry ever seeking frivolous details at great expense to the taxpayer and my wife. Indeed, The Public Trustee solicitor (a woman) appears to have reduced the matter to a personal level, writing her own Statutory Declaration regarding this matter, to which my wife is denied access.

Others have approached us with similar problems and there appears to be a genuine need for a parliamentary committee, as proposed, to scrutinize the ethics of such public bodies. My Wife has contacted your staff and intends to make a personal submission regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Edwards