

David Murray AO
Chairman
Financial System Inquiry
GPO Box 89
Sydney NSW 2001

29th May 2014

To David Murray

Are you interested in hearing from everyday Australians who have been affected by bad banking practice? And whether the financial system is meeting the needs of its consumers, or is it more about meeting the needs of the corporations?

Because it's a story of many, it's a story of everyday Australian people, working, dreaming, and creating, of contribution, responsibility and sacrifice.

Sadly it does not have a happy ending, suicide, financial ruin, families torn apart, and careers destroyed, this is the final chapter.

Are you able to contribute to the epilogue?

Epilogue

A Royal commission into Commonwealth Bank and its roles in the purchase of Bankwest and the subsequent decimation of Bankwest's commercial customers and into their rouge Financial Planning Division.

Why are big wealthy powerful bankers a protected species?

We would like the chance to write our epilogue, not at the hands of Financial Institutions.

You may find the followings links of interest.

If you google Senator Eggleston who made a speech on the 25/3/14 late at night in parliament.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJAM1HoCspw>

Also to google Professor Dr Evan Jones, he also had a very lengthy piece about this on Face book.

<http://www.bankvictims.com.au/dr-evan-jones/item/11115-the-cbas-crime-against-bankwest-borrowers-revisited>

Rory Obrien against CBA.

<http://www.bankvictims.com.au/commonwealth-bank-of-australia/item/11146-developer-rory-obrien-settles-bankwest-dispute>

Four Corners reported story called Banking Bad

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2014/05/05/3995954.htm>

We are victims of bad banking practice, identical to the people Bruce Billson talks about in his letter to you, from his conversations with small business owners around Australia.

Bruce's' letter clearly articulated what we have experienced firsthand by the bank , our loan had been secured by family homes, there were covenants on our loan, amazingly we were penalised, whilst still managing to make all repayments, on loan, suppliers and wages.

These penalties certainly restricted us in moving our business forward and also restricted us in being able to continue to operate a successful business.

We experienced the lowering of property values and the subsequent actions and bank management forced us into a fire sale situation, to get rid of us, rather than working with us to continue to operate and continue in a regional community which offered local people and suppliers employment and trade.

Whilst going through this very trying, stressful time, it was not improved by the actions of the Bank Wests representatives, in their bullying tactics, through emails, phone contact, even including our accountant, who had had extensive experience in managing the financial and accounting responsibilities of many other similar operations.

We were successful small business owners, part of a community, invested in business, employing local people, supporting local and state suppliers and producers.

Our business had to be sold, at a fire sale to pay the Bankwest loan.
Our home, superannuation, key assets and savings were sold at a fire sale to appease the bank.

Our story is not isolated, this has happened to many Australians across Australia.

Why can the banks get away with this behaviour?

Why does it seem there are two sets of rules? One for the rich and powerful and one for the working class?

We have contacted Mr Mitch Williams, Mr Don Farrell and Ms Penny Wong in 2012, with no response or recognition of receiving our communication.

Mr Nick Xenophon has been the only senator who has responded to our communication, he has been unable to comment due to representation of another client.

Bruce Billson has also responded to our emails and through providing a copy of his letter to you continues to give us belief that there are people who are willing to listen and make changes.

For us its small steps, we are two, and we wish for our voices to be heard, we wish for our experience to be known. Why? We believe in small business, the benefits to all, the challenges and the risks.

Our small steps include continued communication to representatives like you, to our federal member and we are also part of a group on banking victims.

Would you be willing to sit down and meet with us to hear our story, to understand more about this matter, to investigate whether a royal commission is warranted?

Is the story of 1 or 100 enough?

Yours sincerely Diane and Max Lock

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Diane Lock". There is a small mark to the left of the name, possibly a date or another signature, but it is less legible.