

**Report on Conference of Standard Board.**

Paul and myself attended a conference of the Standards Board. It was an update on where things are at.

Without section 66 still in the dark, but they can make some educated guesses.

The main presentation was on hearings at local level.

The key points were, Pre hearing who and how, key to arrive at finding of facts. Hearings in general should not be in Private, position of monitoring officer, how the hearing should be conducted, adversarial or inquisitive, probably both. Representation should be agreed before hand. No power of compulsorily making someone answer questions. The result does not have to be unanimous. Chair has casting vote. Sanctions decided after representations. Results should be notified to **all** including press. Right of appeal possible to standards board.

We have discussed this at our meetings but perhaps at our next meeting we could look at this and make some preliminary decisions.

Once again they had a forward looking section and the role of the standards committee. They are suggesting extended terms of reference to include complaints procedures, and ombudsman investigations, ethical auditing, oversight of audit and management letters, review of constitution, advising others of probity and ethics, making representation to government, sharing experiences with other standards committees.

It was a helpful day but I'm not sure about its forward vision.

Jim Kennedy