



2010 SEMINAR SERIES

FEAR IN PUBLIC POLICY AND URBAN DECISION-MAKING

When: Tuesday 22nd June 2010

Time: 4-7pm

Venue: The Sun Room, Ivy, 320 George Street (also via Ash Street)

Life in Western society has been permeated by uncertainty and fear: of change, of others, of lawlessness, of liability, of legal action, even of being wrong. Many administrative decisions are now influenced and warped by the desire to avoid risk. This is particularly prevalent in urban areas, where parents protect children from imagined dangers, Councils apply numerous health and safety constraints to public projects, and government generally plays it safe, all at odds with the statistical record. In our society, this occurs in the almost complete absence of terrorism.

Chairman: Dr Bob Solomon, Chairman AIUS

Speakers:

Prof Carmen Lawrence,

Director, Centre for Study of Social Change,
School of Psychology, University of Western Australia

"Political exploitation of the fear of crime"

The last few decades have seen a sustained fear campaign on law and order, so that people have wildly exaggerated perceptions of the risk of assault, robbery and child abuse. This has distorted law and justice policies and mis-directed public expenditure.

Councillor John McInerney,

Architect and former City Planner

"The effect of fear on urban policy"

Laws generally and administrative laws in particular are often generated by well meaning politicians attempting to protect people from themselves, leading to the more fearful reality of the Nanny State.

Mark Doepel,

Special Counsel, Sparke Helmore lawyers

"Where the rubber hits the road: when today's risk management meets tomorrow's moralhazard"

Mark, who has long experience in commercial and general litigation, will look at emerging issues and present personal views on risk and hazard. He will examine whether we are becoming a more litigious society and its implications.

Questions and Discussion to 7.00pm

There will be a break for refreshments at about 5.30pm

Ivy Entertainment complex

This large complex has many separate centres on several floors, so it is desirable for seminar registrants to be directed to the Sun Room at ground floor reception (off Ash Street and the lane from George Street). Those wanting to make a tour of inspection should attend reception at 3.30pm.