

Dr Neville Buch
MPHA (Qld)
Historian



**History & Philosophy
In Queensland**
Dr Neville Buch

Understanding history is philosophy in practice

www.drnevillebuch.com/

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ABN 86703686642

Wednesday, 14 April 2021

cc. Lord Mayor, re: Ref: LM04593-2020

and several other Councillors concerned with this issue.

To the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education,

AMENDMENT STATEMENT TO TF216529

I wish to make an Amendment Statement to TF/216529 which has been passed onto you from the Office of Premier.

I have several matters which cojoin with what was originally a complaint on State and Federal Government policies on higher education to detriment of community education. It is now a petition to all three levels of government.

The first matter is the advice that the bureaucracies provided to all three-level governments, regarding history and heritage, is unknown and untested. The public, when making a complain or a petition, is often in the dark on what advice is given, and that includes expertise in all fields.

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I suspect that there are two problems here. One is the political game-plays which occurs despite formal policies on how the bureaucracies should work. Secondly, I suspect that, with being informed in recent discussions with Professor Lori Lockyer, Executive Dean, Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice, that many bureaucrats are delivering bad advice based on **out-dated education with bachelor's degrees only**, not aligned to the up-to-date expertise.

Let me be frank, that up-to-date expertise comes from higher degree graduates. I am **not only** the historian with a higher degree; I have proven myself one of the best historians of Brisbane and Queensland.

And yet, for decades, and thousands like me across the country, we have been underpaid, **or not paid**, for our professional work by governmental units.

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The heart of the problem is what I call the psyche-ethical syndrome of “**no one responsibilities**” (note *plural*). Here is how the logic works:

1. Petition made for compassion and reason in a potential outcome of legitimate assistance (i.e., request and negotiated offer is legitimate);
2. Petition does **not** fall into our realm of responsibility (for all governmental units);
3. Petition fallout of all governmental units (no legitimate negotiated offer is made).

To illuminate the fallacious logic further, the hidden inference is the mistaken outlook that there being no direct link of responsibility, no practical assistance can be offer. Is this true? I think not, and I think a logician would agree with my critique.

Currently, this is the state of play for me, and those like me. But then made worse is the attitude of government, in that the costs of government services must come from me, and those like me. Let me be clear, I have **no debts** to Council, the State, and the Federal Government. I have no debts except a mortgage under \$100,000.

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And yet from the local media I see where the priorities of the State Government laid. See media Story:

<https://inqld.com.au/news/2021/04/15/bank-accounts-cash-even-cars-seized-as-government-sends-in-debt-collectors/>

I would agree that the State is not only entitled to clawback debt it has an ethical responsibility, and that larger ethical responsibility is to ensure that government services has employed the most expert advice. So, you can see there are serious questions that this is the case.

What has motivated me to heighten three long decades of campaigning, informally and formally, for this message, is that, for the last two weeks, my health has declined in work exhaustion, unpaid work exhaustion in a campaign to gain fair paid work. And it is critical because, after three long decades in this work, where my late wife and I have been fighting the situation of off falling below the poverty line with two daughters, my assets are depleting fast. The next step is to again dip into my superannuation if I can.

Yesterday, I had a minor car accident, I backed into my daughter's parked car. It shocked me as I was utterly exhausted from work, and my attention elapsed -- I have a reverse camera screen! What the State, and Federal Ministers, and

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Brisbane City Councillors, need to understand, need to know this is the poor health condition I am in as a poorly paid or unpaid scholar. If I do not have friends who are willing to speak up to authorities with power, I will be killed with this type of exhaustion.

Kind regards,

**Dr Neville Buch MPHA (Qld),
Ph.D. (History) UQ., Grad. Dip. Arts (Philosophy) Melb., Grad. Dip. (Education) UQ.**

Director

Brisbane Southside History Network Project (BSHN)



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Project Manager

Mapping Brisbane Southside History Project (MBSH)
2014-2017 (amalgamated into the Mapping Brisbane History Project)



An Initiative of the Coopers Plains Local History Group Inc.
Funded by the Brisbane City Council Community History Grant

Project Manager

Mapping Brisbane History Project (MBH)



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