

The Hon Tony Fitzgerald AC QC said that it is 'difficult to perceive what legitimate reason a party seeking election in a democracy could have for declining to make commitments such as the following:

- the public to be fully and accurately informed promptly and not to be misled;
- all government decisions and actions to be taken for the common benefit without regard to personal, political or other considerations;
- all people to be treated equally with no person given special treatment or superior access to influence; and
- all public appointments to be made on merit.

'Effective democracy needs principled politicians, an independent, impartial judiciary plus, as the American author Norman Mailer said, "individuals not only ready to enjoy freedom but to undergo the heavy labor of maintaining it." That task includes blunt criticism of political misconduct. As President John F Kennedy said, "without debate, without criticism no administration and no country can succeed and no republic can survive.'

*(Source: 'Remarks from the Honourable Gerald Edward (Tony) Fitzgerald AC, QC' given when introducing the 2014 Tony Fitzgerald Lecture 'Police Accountability: Queensland and the World' presented by Emeritus Professor David Bailey, University of Albany, State University of New York, 10 September 2014)*