First Shot Across NAB's Bow - They Had No Idea What Was Coming

Summary:
Years after NAB used Predatory Lending against Dr Brandson's family Bank Reform Now formed to take on the banks - one at a time. NAB is first. Carmen McIntosh explains why.

Article Information**Category:** BRN In The Media
Banking Company: NAB
Bank Malpractice Type: Predatory Lending
Unconscionable Conduct
Author: Carmen McIntosh
Source: The Bay Post
Date First Published: 27 Sep 2013

Posted ByPeter Brandson
10 Jul 2014 - 11:08am





Eurobodalla Doctor Campaigns For Change

A Eurobodalla doctor is on a crusade to instigate major reform of Australia's bank lending system.

Batehaven doctor Peter Brandson is determined to show how when "good people get together" they can hold "corporate criminals" such as banks to account.

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It comes after a 'big four' bank approved a member of his family a sizeable loan in 2004, which could not be repaid by the borrower.

Three years later the bank began legal proceedings to take possession of Dr Brandson's family home, despite him not being a signatory or guarantor on the loan, nor it being in his name.

While Dr Brandson eventually stopped the repossession by refinancing the loan in his name with another financial institution – a burden he still has to bear – he is seeking retribution for "predatory lending practices" and "negligent conduct".

"Predatory lending is the issue - they found someone who was related to someone who had a good income, and they gave the loan to that other person," he said.

"The other person didn't have the income or asset base that would justify that sort of loan.

"I want the system to be investigated because there's millions of other people who are suffering the same sort of thing and they just suffer in silence.

Anybody else would have given up and they would have copped it – I'm not copping it.

Dr Brandson is seeking to settle out of court with the bank for damages which include interest payments and fees on the loan.

He has also brought the case to the attention of the Financial Ombudsman and hopes what he has been through will trigger a "groundswell of public demand for change" in how banks operate.

"The banking system is in need of major reform," he said.

"What we want to see is a Royal Commission into how the industry operates and what reforms are needed.

"I may need the help of the community to put up a case that will help reform the system which allows banks to get away with activities that cause so much harm to people and families.

"People have had similar experiences, so I'll be looking for their stories and from people who work for the banks, because they know how this operation works.

"It is time to take a stand."

Dr Brandson has established a website www.bankreformnow.com.au - currently under construction, which has more detail on how to be a part of the campaign.

He is looking for residents with similar stories to share their stories and for supporters of the cause to sign a petition, approach their local politicians, make "as much noise as possible" on social media using the #BankReformNow hashtag, and write letters to the editor.

If you would like to be involved, email Dr Brandson on info@bankreformnow.com.au

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - Have Your Say At Senate inquiry

11.10.13

THE response to my dispute with a local bank regarding its predatory lending practices has been

fantastic.

Many people have asked what they can do to help.

The very first thing to do is put a submission into the Senate inquiry (the one that no-one has heard about).

Go to www.bankreformnow.com.au and there you will see a link - letter to my supporters - and a link to the Senate inquiry.

Submissions must be in by October 21.

It is urgent to act now and the letter explains why.

Corrupt banking practices affect every one of us, even if you do not have a loan with a bank.

The cost of living is far higher than it needs to be and that is why many of us find it hard to get the balance right between work and family.

I will be releasing more information about this soon.

Please visit the website and put in a submission to the Senate inquiry today.

Dr Peter Brandson

Source URL (modified on 13 Nov 2016 - 11:42pm): https://mail.reformnow.com.au/node/174

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