

# Why do people fight for justice?

By Eileen Chubb©

We have all watched the news and rightly been outraged by scandals such as Hillsborough, Mid Staffs, Gosport, infected blood and many more. We have all felt for the victims and their families and all hoped that justice would be done. But it is only when you have to fight for justice that you realise how the original harm or wrongdoing is compounded a thousand times, by the fact that you have to fight at all.

I loved my job as a care worker, I looked forward to going to work each day and felt huge reward from being able to care for people, make them feel safe in a world that dementia had turned upside down. When I look back, I see the Eileen I used to be, the women that believed in justice.

Tomorrow is May 14<sup>th</sup>, the day the BUPA 7 whistle-blowers went to Des Kelly to ask for help after being subjected to physical violence by a number of co-workers and BUPA management for blowing the whistle to the authority's because management failed to act on the widespread abuse of vulnerable elderly people. 20 years have passed and every hour and every day of those 20 years I have fought for justice. I have fought because we were telling the truth and we were right to do so.

The more BUPA denied the truth the harder I had to fight. This experience showed me a world where,  
The lives of priceless people have no value,  
Where abuse and suffering is something to be excused or played down,  
Where those who commit the worst abuse are protected by the system,  
Where those who cover-up abuse and protect abusers can thrive as Des Kelly has.  
Where vital evidence can be suppressed.

In the last year I have seen for the first time documents about the BUPA 7 case, these documents have been obtained by the Journalist Niels Ladefoged under subject access law.

Less than 5% of this evidence has so far been published, most of this documentation will be revealed in the film “**Edna**” But in the last couple of weeks I have published a small amount of the less damning material, records that showed the regulators notes and internal records from a number of sources for example,  
That apart from the **7** whistle-blowers, **20** other staff also came forward from a total of **36** and reported **228** serious incidents that corroborated the original whistleblowing. **17** families also came forward with concerns. The testimony of **46** people,  
An independent pharmacist report  
The regulators inquiry report,  
The court statement of the lead investigator confirming Des Kelly had placed known abusers in further care homes without the knowledge of and against the wishes of social services.  
None of the above was enough for accountability then and since.

Des Kelly has gone on to be the Director of the National Care Forum, is a trustee of the Relatives and Residents Association, a Government advisor, esteemed expert on social care, and paid tribute to by the CQC.

I on the other hand will pay for whistleblowing until my dying day, no savings, no pension, no salary, every day I go without the basics, but I am richer than BUPA and Des Kelly will ever be.  
The hardest thing was seeing people suffer appalling abuse, drugged screamed at, hit, kicked and stolen from.

The next hardest thing? I always believed BUPA knew we were telling the truth but seeing the documents recently obtained, seeing it in black and white after 20 years of being publicly called a liar, has renewed my determination for accountability: not for revenge but for Edna and all those who suffered in Isard House and to ensure that all those who stood on the wrong side when it mattered most are exposed.

In the next few months we will be launching the Richard Turner award for integrity in the investigation of abuse, in memory of the lead investigator in the Isard House inquiry who became a whistle-blower himself when pressurised to tone down his inquiry report and who had the courage to copy and remove evidence at the time.

For Edna, Grace Dot, Reg and all those whose suffering continues to be held so cheap. We fight for justice because **only** justice will save others from their fate.

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