

Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas

Uproar over pedophile scandal

The establishment is hissing and spitting, threatening to destroy Franca Arena, a courageous MP who exposed the cover-up.

In May, the three-year, \$100 million royal commission investigating police corruption and pedophilia in New South Wales (N.S.W.), delivered its final report. Yep, there was loads of police corruption, Justice James Wood intoned, but nary a pedophile in sight. The latter finding flew in the face of years-long, repeated exposures of high-level pedophile networks in the state's parliament and judicial system by state Members of Parliament Deirdre Grusovin and Franca Arena, and of eyewitness testimony before Justice Wood himself.

Outraged, Arena charged in parliament on Sept. 17, that the state's political and judicial leadership was covering up. Conspiring in that, she said, were the state president of the ruling Labor Party, Terry Sheahan (now a judge), Party Secretary John Della Bosca, State Premier Bob Carr, Opposition leader Peter Collins, and Judge Wood.

The N.S.W. establishment retaliated viciously. Carr appointed a commission chaired by Queen's Counsel John Nader, to investigate Arena's charges. According to an article in the *Australian* of Oct. 8, Nader had apparently himself been accused of pedophilia in the Northern Territory in the late 1980s. Nader chose to ignore the substance of Arena's charges, and to merely focus on her claims that those she named had conspired together one Sunday in March. Nader charged that her allegations were "false in all respects."

Arena's accusations should have fallen under "parliamentary privi-

lege," by which no MP may be charged with slander, nor investigated by any outside agency. An N.S.W. legal source told *EIR*, "This is unprecedented . . . that an outside body would be appointed to, in effect, overturn parliamentary privilege." The N.S.W. Court of Appeal and the nation's High Court both turned down Arena's appeal against having to appear before Nader, based on that privilege.

Once Nader delivered his verdict, Premier Carr moved to expel Arena, a member of his own Labor Party, from parliament, in which he was joined by Opposition leader Collins. In a stunning upset, Collins could not muster the votes in his own caucus for expulsion. Collins claims that that caucus vote will be reversed in 1998, and that she will be expelled. Meantime, she is saddled with legal costs of over \$200,000; Carr turned down her appeal to have parliament pay those fees. Disgusted, the 60-year-old Arena responded, "I'll fight it until the very end, and I'm not going to be scared by the big boys at the big end of town." She then quit the Labor Party.

Carr soon got an unwelcome taste of Arena's morality, when she cast the deciding vote to defeat his attempt to decriminalize marijuana, by 20-19. Decrim had been one of Justice Wood's main recommendations to "fight police corruption," in addition to dismantling the N.S.W. police force's anti-drug squad, which Wood himself had to acknowledge had been "highly effective." Applying the same lack of principle, Wood's recommendation for fighting pedophilia was to

call for the age of consent for homosexual sex to be lowered from 18 to 16.

Meanwhile, Wood's ally, N.S.W. police chief Peter Ryan, jumped in to plead that Arena's four volumes of evidence on pedophilia not be given to the Privileges Committee of N.S.W.'s Upper House of parliament, lest, Ryan hysterically claimed, "police investigations might be jeopardized, fair trials prejudiced, reputations ruined, witnesses endangered, and suicides attempted." Ryan's outburst was most peculiar, since Nader had dismissed Arena's dossiers as inconsequential. Ryan was recruited from England, where he dealt regularly with sensitive intelligence matters, and with the Crown.

Meanwhile, on Nov. 18, Federal Sen. Bill Hernan (Liberal-N.S.W.) charged that the Federal government, too, was condoning pedophilia. Bill Heffernan asked a series of questions in parliament to his own ruling Liberal Party, including whether a former Australian ambassador to Chile had been declared *persona non grata* for pedophile activity and had been asked to leave that country. In an official statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) said the charges were "unfounded and utterly rejected." In June 1995, Liberal backbencher Ken Aldred had charged in parliament that at least 20 top DFAT officers were pedophiles. A subsequent DFAT investigation into whether the department had covered up pedophile activity by its staffers—which activity has been widely documented, even by the mass media—found "no cover-up."

The same day as Heffernan's charges, it also emerged that the government had known that the notorious fugitive pedophile Robert "Dolly" Dunn was in Honduras, but had made no move to arrest him, until a "60 Minutes" TV team found Dunn and interviewed him.