



**MANNING CLARK HOUSE**  
*A home for contemporary debate and discussion*

## **Why Whistleblowing Matters: Secrecy and Transparency in Australia**

**Sunday 30 April 2023 at 2.00pm**  
**Manning Clark House**



Kieran Pender is an Australian writer, lawyer and academic. He is a senior lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre, leading its work on whistleblower protections. Kieran is also an honorary lecturer at the ANU College of Law, teaching constitutional law and private international law, and an award-winning journalist.

Kieran has covered the Olympics, World Cup and Tour de France for *The Guardian*; he also writes for *The Saturday Paper*, *The New York Times* and *The Monthly*. He will be speaking in a personal capacity.

Whistleblowers make Australia a better place. Many of the major scandals of the past decade in Australian public life have been revealed thanks to courageous whistleblowers speaking up about wrongdoing. But too many whistleblowers are punished, not protected. Right now two Australian whistleblowers are on trial, for telling the truth. Our whistleblower protections framework is broken; efforts at reform have been slow and piecemeal. Secrecy has pervaded our institutions - secret trials are taking place, the freedom of information regime is ineffective and secrecy offences have been expanded. This creep from transparency to secrecy must be halted. Comprehensive law reform across a range of areas is essential, together with institutional change and the establishment of a whistleblower protection authority. Most fundamentally, we need cultural change - a shift in public mindset to recognise the value of fearless truth-telling. Whistleblowers are agents of democratic accountability; this talk will lay out how they can be protected and empowered.

*Please book your ticket and join in for Q&A with light refreshments after the talk*

**Booking essential**

**MCH members \$15; concession (Gov't Support and full-time students) \$15**  
**Non-members \$20**

**Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGTQT>**

Manning Clark House, 11 Tasmania Circle Forrest