

# *Business Alert !*

No. 13 of 2007

## **Warning over workplace psychopaths**

Thursday, 14 June, 2007

An expert has warned that workplace psychopaths are common in major businesses and are ruining the lives of their colleagues - and they are often rewarded for their ruthless behaviour because they appear smart and creative but are really manipulative bullies who steal ideas.

Dr John Clarke, a psychotherapist who has written two books about workplace psychopaths, said up to 3% of the Australian population was psychopathic.

"I would say that in every major company there would be at least one," Dr Clarke said. "They are seen as rising employees who are full of energy and creativity. In business you are encouraged to make money for the company and if you appear to be doing whatever it takes to make money, you are often promoted.

But behind the facade, Dr Clarke says such workers are "ego-centric, grandiose, pathological liars with a lack of conscience, remorse and guilt".

Dr Clarke said victims were miserable, suffered depression, anxiety and panic attacks and feared going to work. "Psychopaths isolate their victims through cutting them out of the lines of communication and then destroy them," he said.

Dr Clarke said employees could protect themselves through education, communication or ultimately leaving their workplace. "If you know what they do, you are less likely to be sucked in and better communication in the workplace makes you feel less isolated," he said.

Source: AAP

**Need Assistance or More Information? Contact our Legal Compliance experts on:**

**Tel / Fax: 02 9876 3672**

**E-mail: [legal\\_compliance@croesusmgt.com](mailto:legal_compliance@croesusmgt.com)**

**Website: [www.croesusmgt.com](http://www.croesusmgt.com)**