

I commend Peter for his 44 years of commitment to the Queensland Police Service. Throughout his career he stretched his abilities and continued to learn new things. He put himself in a position where he developed his skills and continued to take on a wide variety of new positions right to the end. I would like to thank the Queensland Police Service for the professionalism that it has reached that an individual can take a variety of opportunities to develop such a diversified career. I hope many young officers take a leaf out of Peter's book and carve themselves out as long and distinguished a career as Peter has had.

Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee Report No. 100

Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.20 pm): I rise in this parliament tonight in response to Report No. 100 in relation to a matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 19 August 2009 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by me. That report sated—

On the material before the committee there is no evidence that in her statement to the House, the Member for Mudgeeraba intended to mislead the House.

...

The committee finds that there is no breach of privilege or contempt in this matter. The committee recommends that the House take no further action in regard to the matter of the alleged contempt.

...

The committee notes that the Member's statement could have been worded more carefully to convey the correct information.

As per recommendation No. 2—the committee requests that at the next opportunity the member correct the parliamentary record by making a statement to the House—I would like to clarify to the House that my earlier statement dated 4 August 2009 was based on my understanding that my decision not to confirm my details on the register of lobbyists for the Prime Minister and Cabinet by 16 April 2009 would have resulted in my registration lapsing anyway. I am of the view, as was the committee after considering my submission, that the failure to confirm details should have had the same effect as a request to remove, that is, removal from the register. On my submission to the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee it was determined that my explanation of the facts was consistent with my statements in the House.

I would also like to put the following facts on the record so that there can be no further misrepresentations in the future. The Register of Members' Interests dated 15 June 2009 clearly states that the company Entree Vous Pty Ltd was under a sale agreement and that all 'shareholdings will be resigned on settling sales of shares and that the member is no longer involved in the management of the company or direct lobbying'.

On 3 August at 12.15 pm—the same day that Channel 7 inaccurately reported that I still owned a lobbying company which had actually been sold at 11 that morning, of which they had been aware—I lodged an update to the Register of Members' Interests that stated—

This is to confirm that Rosslyn Mary Bates has transferred all of her interests in the company named as Entree Vous Pty Ltd to a third party. Rosslyn and her son, Benjamin Ross Gommers has also resigned as directors (and secretary) of the company.

I note that the committee also reminds members such as me to ensure accuracy in their statements in this House. I refer back to the inaccurate comments made on Tuesday, 15 September by the Deputy Premier which were rebutted the next day. I reiterate that it is incumbent on the Deputy Premier and all members of this House to ensure that comments that they make in this House are factual and not misleading.

Albert Electorate, Seniors Morning Tea

Hon. MM KEECH (Albert—ALP) (10.23 pm): Last month I had the pleasure of hosting a very special morning tea for the seniors of the Pimpama and Willow Vale areas of the Albert electorate. My special guests were Julia Gilbert, the Principal Education and Advice Officer for the Office of the Adult Guardian, and Steve Forster, the Regional Manager at the Southport office of the Public Trustee of Queensland.

Julia and Steve presented an excellent information session on two vital state government services of which it seems a lot of people are unaware. The Office of the Adult Guardian was established to protect the rights of people who are unable to make important decisions for themselves. Whether it be from a serious accident or through a debilitating illness such as dementia, when someone finds themselves in a position where they are now unable to perform basic, everyday tasks, it can be frightening and distressing not just for them but for their families as well. In cases such as this, the office can be appointed to act as the guardian of the person including times when the incapacitated person has no immediate family, where there is abuse involved or when there is a serious conflict within the family which may be detrimental to the person's wellbeing.