




Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

---

**MOTION**

**Independent Advisory Panel, Report**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.32 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House authorises publication of the redacted copy of the report of the Honourable Ian Callinan QC and Professor Nicholas Aroney tabled today titled *Review of the Crime and Misconduct Act and related matters: report of the Independent Advisory Panel*, dated 28 March 2013, and associated documents and correspondence related to the report.

The Newman government has a fundamental commitment to the preservation and improvement of an independent and accountable Crime and Misconduct Commission. We have always accepted the view that such a body is essential in modern society to ensure that the full powers of the state are brought to bear on police misconduct, official misconduct and serious crime. The simple fact is that there are no shortcuts towards achieving these goals.

Accordingly, the agency charged with these grave responsibilities must be furnished with the tools to undertake these tasks, the qualified personnel to carry them out and, importantly, the will to overcome the challenges that they face. It has been our aim to ensure the commission is best placed to carry out these important tasks. For some time now there have been concerns expressed that the CMC has not been as effective and efficient as it should be. Queenslanders are entitled to expect the highest quality service from all public authorities, particularly those which are charged with identifying and preventing unlawful behaviour.

Against this background, the Newman government initiated a review of the Crime and Misconduct Act. We appointed an advisory panel consisting of former High Court judge the Hon. Ian Callinan AC and Professor Nicholas Aroney of the University of Queensland to undertake this review. In coming to its conclusions the panel referred to a number of matters which, upon review by crown law, has resulted in the moving of this motion and the tabling of a redacted version of the report.

This is not the first occasion on which a motion of this nature has been moved and carried by this House. On 1 May 2003 the then Premier, Peter Beattie, tabled a report titled *Report of the board of inquiry into past handling of complaints of serial abuse in the Anglican Church Diocese of Brisbane*. The printing of that report by parliament, a report commissioned by the Anglican Church, allowed it to be released into the public domain. Today's motion will allow precisely the same thing to occur. Former Premier Beattie said on that occasion—

Archbishop Aspinall said that it is clear that there is substantial and justified public interest in the content of the report and he said that it was his wish that the report be publically available so far as that may lawfully occur.

In this instance, there is also a substantial and justified public interest in this report being made available to the public.

The panel has identified shortcomings in the CMC's performance but has put forward constructive suggestions as to how this can be improved, whether it be through a change in internal structure or approach. Few of us would pass scrutiny without some suggestions for improvement and

I would hope that the CMC and the wider community would view the panel's suggestions as nothing less than reforms that deserve full and fair consideration.

I propose to invite the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee to offer its comments on the panel's recommendations and will be writing seeking the committee's cooperation in this important task. The presentation of this report preceded the release of the parliamentary committee's own report, report No. 90, on an inquiry into the Crime and Misconduct Commission's release and destruction of Fitzgerald inquiry documents. Both reports form a firm foundation upon which this parliament can build a Crime and Misconduct Commission better able to fulfil its important public duties.

I believe we have a unique opportunity to make improvements to the CMC's structure and the way in which it operates. I believe we have an obligation to do this in the interests of all Queenslanders. This is an obligation this government will not shirk. I commend this motion to the House.