



Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2013

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (1.45 am): In accordance with the resolution passed in the House yesterday, I can report that I have now had a briefing from the chair of the PCMC, the member for Gladstone. I can now report that my concerns raised in this House over the last 48 hours have been substantiated. The PCMC inquiry into Dr Ken Levy was tainted from the outset. I have alleged over the last 48 hours bias by the members for Bundamba, Nicklin, South Brisbane and Inala.

The PCMC met yesterday afternoon for their final determination in relation to the matter and the investigation with respect to Dr Ken Levy. Having left Dr Ken Levy out in the corridor waiting for his chance to respond to the serious allegations, Dr Levy was never afforded the opportunity to respond. Inside—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, what is your point of order?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am very concerned about the Attorney-General moving this motion because in documents before the PCMC from Philip Nase, which are on the public record, the Attorney-General is named as a party. I find that he is bordering on bias by raising these issues when clearly he is named and by the documents his office is implicated.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Please take your seat. Leader of the Opposition, the minister currently has the call. I am going to allow the minister to continue. There will be an opportunity later on for the Leader of the Opposition to put her point. I call the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will continue my ministerial statement. The PCMC met this afternoon, having left Dr Ken Levy outside. This was his final opportunity to provide his evidence and respond to the allegations that were made against him in various hearings. Dr Ken Levy, I am advised, was not afforded that opportunity.

Inside the committee meeting the PCMC were determining whether or not the allegations of bias were founded. We have clearly seen tonight, with the statements made by the chair of the PCMC, that the committee had decided that there was a level of bias, therefore the PCMC could not proceed with the investigation into Dr Ken Levy. In its report tomorrow the matter is going to be referred on to an ethics committee by resolution of this House. A second motion was moved whereby selective transcripts would be released. Having the PCMC decide that with regard to some of its members there could be a perception of bias—

**Ms TRAD:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Attorney-General, take your seat. What is your point of order?

**Ms TRAD:** The Attorney-General is misrepresenting the deliberations of the PCMC.

**Madam SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order. Please take your seat.

**Ms TRAD:** He is misrepresenting the deliberations.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I call the Attorney-General.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** As I was saying, having the resolution, which the honourable member for Gladstone advised tonight, that the PCMC would now no longer be hearing this matter, I can only ascertain that one of the reasons for that is that there is a perception of bias amongst some of the members of the PCMC. They had resolved in one of their motions, pursuant to the briefing I had, that they would recommend to the House that the matter of Dr Ken Levy be referred to an ethics committee. A second motion was moved in the PCMC, I am advised, that a selection of transcripts would be released, as was the case, by the chair last evening.

So we had the allegations of bias. The committee met yesterday afternoon. Having denied Dr Levy the opportunity to respond to the allegations over various days and testimony, the committee then decided to refer it off to an ethics committee but released selective transcripts. In my view, the PCMC has all but confirmed its bias by some of its members. Despite this bias, honourable colleagues, the PCMC, having ascertained the position of bias, then proceeded to vote on the two motions—one, to refer this matter to the Ethics Committee and, secondly, to release selective transcripts. So the very members that I have alleged perceived bias then voted on motions on this particular issue. What is concerning me is that these particular members should have gone into the PCMC meeting yesterday afternoon and recused themselves from any further deliberation on these matters.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** And, Madam Speaker, I submit that they should not have proceeded to the votes whilst those members were still in the room. More concerning is the selective release of transcripts. I note that one of the transcripts released was the—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members! I call the Attorney-General.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I note that one of the transcripts released was from the public hearing—already in the public domain. The second transcript that was released was the original testimony of Dr Ken Levy. The third transcript that was released was testimony by one Mr Lee Anderson. Other transcripts and other hearings were not released. I believe that there has been a denial of natural justice and procedural fairness owed to Dr Ken Levy particularly in the light of the fact that we now have a selective release of evidence or testimony out in the public. I submit to you, Madam Speaker, that this continues to be a trial by media by those honourable members opposite and they should have ceased—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Madam Speaker, those honourable members with alleged perceived bias, who I submit on their own motion of the committee have referred this matter out of the hands of the PCMC to an ethics committee, should have ceased their work and sought the guidance of this House. There are serious failings of the parliamentary committee too large to ignore. The risk to Dr Ken Levy's reputation is too great to not be taken seriously enough by this House.

In conclusion of the ministerial statement, I confirm my statements in the last 48 hours. I have severe reservations with respect to the investigation into Dr Ken Levy, the Acting Chairman of the CMC, based on the alleged perceived bias by honourable members opposite and the member for Nicklin.