

Appendix 17—Committee reports on code of conduct matters raised

Matter: On 23 February 2015, Mr Hanson MLA wrote to the Speaker to claim that Ms Burch MLA had breached sections 3, 5, 9 and 10 of the Members' Code of Conduct. The matter was referred to the Commissioner for Standards by the Speaker on 26 February 2015.

Consideration of matter: The Commissioner for Standards found that the complaint raised potentially serious issues about the conduct of a minister and that there had been sufficient evidence to warrant referral of the matter for independent investigation. However, following investigation, the commissioner formed the view that no breach of the minister's duty had been substantiated. The commissioner recommended that the complaint be dismissed.

Following receipt of the Commissioner for Standards' report, the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure recommended that no further action be taken in relation to the matter. The committee's report was noted by the Assembly on 4 August 2015. See Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, *The Conduct of Ms Burch MLA*, Report 6, June 2015, see MoP, No 106, 4 August 2015, p 1192; Assembly Debates, 4 August 2015, pp 2175-2177.

Matter: On 13 May 2016, Mr Hanson MLA wrote to the Speaker to claim that Mr Barr MLA had breached sections 3, 5, 9 and 10 of the Members' Code of Conduct. The matter was referred to the Commissioner for Standards by the Speaker on 16 May 2016.

Consideration of matter: The Commissioner for Standards found that the issues raised were potentially serious and an independent investigation was warranted. However, after examining the issues, the commissioner formed the view that no breach of the Chief Minister's duty had been substantiated. The commissioner recommended that the complaint be dismissed.

Following receipt of the Commissioner for Standards' report, the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure recommended that no further action be taken in relation to the matter. The committee's report was noted by the Assembly on 2 August 2016. See Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, *The Conduct of Mr Barr MLA*, Report 9, August 2016, see MoP, No 142, 2 August 2016, p 1622; Assembly Debates, 2 August 2016, p 2058.

Matter: On 10 and 11 August 2016, Ms Burch MLA wrote to the Speaker to claim that Mr Hanson MLA had breached sections 7 and 15 of the Members' Code of Conduct. The matter was referred to the Commissioner for Standards by the Speaker on 15 August 2016.

Consideration of matter: The Commissioner for Standards concluded that, even if the Leader of the Opposition could be shown to have had some involvement in the production or use of the pamphlet, no breach of his duty could be substantiated. The commissioner recommended that the complaint be dismissed.

Following receipt of the Commissioner for Standards' report, the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure recommended that no further action be taken in relation to the matter. The committee's report was presented to the Assembly on 31 October 2016. See Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, *The Conduct of Mr Hanson MLA*, Report 11, August 2016, see MoP, No 1, 31 October 2016, p 4; Assembly Debates, 31 October 2016, p 13.

Matter: On 26 August 2016, the Campaign Director of the Canberra Liberals wrote to the Speaker to claim that Dr Bourke MLA had breached sections 3 and 6 of the Members' Code of Conduct. The matter was referred to the Commissioner for Standards by the Speaker on 30 August 2016.

Consideration of matter: The Commissioner for Standards found that, having examined the substantive issues raised by the complaint against Dr Bourke, no breach of his duty had been substantiated. The commissioner recommended that the complaint be dismissed.

Following receipt of the Commissioner for Standards' report, the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure recommended that no further action be taken in relation to the matter. The committee's report was presented to the Assembly on 31 October 2016. See Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, *The Conduct of Dr Bourke MLA*, Report 12, September 2016, see MoP, No 1, 31 October 2016, p 4; Assembly Debates, 31 October 2016, p 13.

Matter: On 28 June 2018, Ms Cheyne MLA wrote to the Clerk to claim that Miss C Burch MLA had breached section 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct. The matter was referred to the Commissioner for Standards by the Clerk on 29 June 2018.

Consideration of matter: The Commissioner for Standards found that, having examined the substantive issues raised by the complaint against Miss C Burch, no breach of the code had been established. The commissioner recommended that the complaint be dismissed.

Following receipt of the Commissioner for Standards' report, the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure recommended that no further action be taken in relation to the matter. The committee's report was noted by the Assembly on 23 August 2018. See Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, *The Conduct of Miss C. Burch MLA*, Report 7, August 2018, see MoP, No 70, 23 August 2018, p 977; Assembly Debates, 23 August 2018, pp 3515-3520.

Matter: On 7 October 2020, the Speaker, on becoming aware of a possible misuse of Assembly facilities, contacted Mr Coe MLA seeking an explanation.

After receiving no response to the request, a further request for an explanation was sent on 9 October 2020 seeking a reply by 12 noon on 12 October 2020. No response was received and the matter was referred to the Commissioner for Standards by the Clerk on 12 October 2020, following receipt of relevant information from the Speaker.

Consideration of matter: The Commissioner for Standards found that Mr Coe MLA breached the requirements of diligence in paragraph (1) of the *Code of Conduct for all Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory* and transparency in paragraph (6) of the code. Following receipt of the Commissioner for Standards' report, the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure made the following recommendation:

The Committee recommends that, having been found to have breached the requirements of diligence in paragraphs (1) of the Code of Conduct and transparency in paragraph (6):

- Mr Coe be requested to apologise in writing, through the Speaker to the Assembly for his actions; and
- Members be reminded of their obligations as employers, as detailed in Section 17 (c) of Code of Conduct for all Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, that Members personal staff be mindful of the Member's commitment to the Code, and to assist the Member to comply with the Code of Conduct.

Consideration of matter (cont): The committee's report was noted by the Assembly on 9 February 2021. See Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, *Report on the Conduct of Mr Coe, MLA*, Report 2, February 2021, see MoP, No 4, 9 February 2021, p 46; Assembly Debates, 9 February 2021, p 287.