

Finance and Public Administration References Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Compliance with Ministerial Standards

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Provision of Notes from Conversations with Mr Pyne and Ms Bishop

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: Committee Hearing 30 August 2019

Type of question: Verbal

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 September 2019

Number of pages: 1

Question:

CHAIR: Dr Parkinson, two things from me. You undertook, I think, to examine your notes in relation to your conversations with Mr Pyne and Ms Bishop and make a determination about whether they could be provided to the committee. I think you said you had no in principle objection but you needed to re-examine them before making a decision. Can I formally ask you to do that as a question on notice?

Dr Parkinson: Yes.

Answer:

Dr Parkinson reviewed his notes and advised that they are not appropriate for release.

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Inquiry into Compliance with Ministerial Standards

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Roles of Former Ministers

Senator: Stoker

Question reference number: Committee Hearing 30 August 2019

Type of question: Verbal

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 September 2019

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Senator STOKER: I'd like you to take on notice how the present cases of Ms Bishop and Mr Pyne compare to the circumstances of other former ministers who have taken on roles after their service in this place. Those people are: Martin Ferguson, who went on after his resignation on 22 March 2013 to become, on 1 October 2013, Chairman of the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association advisory board and also head of natural resources for Seven Group Holdings; Nick Sherry, the former Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law, and also other roles, who resigned from the Senate on 1 June 2012 and, in July 2012, took on a role with Ernst & Young in its financial services advisory practice; Mr Mark Arbib, who was Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Small Business, resigning on 5 March 2012 and going on to work for Consolidated Press Holdings; Simon Crean, former Minister for Regional Australia, Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, and Minister for the Arts, who resigned on 21 March 2013 and became Chairman of the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council; Bernie Ripoll, former Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, who left parliament on 9 May 2016 and established Fresh Advisory, and represented, as lobbyist, the National Credit Providers Association; and Stephen Conroy, who had been Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and who left the Senate on 30 September 2016 and, in December 2016, was appointed Executive Director of Responsible Wagering Australia, to represent the gaming industry.

Dr Parkinson: Senator, I will seek the guidance of the chair. Given that I am no longer secretary of Prime Minister and Cabinet as at five o'clock this afternoon, or whatever the appropriate time is, I don't know whether I can take that on notice. What I can do is actually answer the question about Nick Sherry. I don't know the answers to the others.

CHAIR: Dr Parkinson, can I suggest you do appear today in your capacity as secretary of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and I think, on behalf of the department, you could take those questions on notice.

Dr Parkinson: I'm happy to do so.

Answer:

1. The Department provides the following information in relation to the individuals in question.

The Hon Martin Ferguson AM

- Mr Ferguson was appointed Minister for Resources and Energy and Minister for Tourism on 29 November 2007. Mr Ferguson resigned his ministerial portfolios on 22 March 2013. He left Parliament at the September 2013 election.
- In October 2013 Mr Ferguson was engaged as the head of Seven Group's Resources Division and Chairman of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association's Advisory Board.

The Hon Nick Sherry

- Mr Sherry was Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law from 3 December 2007 to 9 June 2009. He was Minister Assisting on Deregulation and Public Sector Superannuation from 26 January 2011 to 14 December 2011.
- Mr Sherry retired from the Parliament on 1 June 2012.
- On 24 July 2012 Ernst and Young announced that Mr Sherry had been engaged by them as a senior advisor to its superannuation practice.

The Hon Mark Arbib

- Mr Arbib ceased to be Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Small Business and Minister for Sport on 5 March 2012. Mr Arbib resigned from the Parliament the same day.
- In April 2012, Mr Arbib was appointed to undertake an independent review into the corporate governance structures of Australian Rugby Union. The report: Strengthening the Governance of Australian Rugby (the Arbib Review) was released in October 2012.
- Mr Arbib was appointed as the Director of Strategy and Business Development for Consolidated Press Holdings from July 2012.

The Hon Simon Crean

- Mr Crean served as Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government and Minister for the Arts from 14 September 2010 until 21 March 2013.
- Mr Crean left Parliament at the September 2013 election.
- Mr Crean was elected Chairman of the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council in October 2014.

The Hon Bernie Ripoll

- Mr Ripoll was Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer from 5 March 2012 to 18 September 2013 and Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business from 25 March 2013 to 18 September 2013.
- Mr Ripoll left Parliament at the July 2016 election.

- Mr Ripoll is currently on the Register of Lobbyists noting he is a former Government representative with a cessation date of 1 September 2015.

The Hon Stephen Conroy

- Mr Conroy was Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy in the Rudd/Gillard government from 3 December 2007 to 1 July 2013.
- Mr Conroy resigned from the Parliament on 30 September 2016.
- Media reported on Mr Conroy becoming executive director of a gambling industry lobby group, Responsible Wagering Australia, in December 2016.