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The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Report concerning an  
application from Professor  
David Lindenmayer AO for the  
publication of a response to a  
reference made in the  
Federation Chamber**

House of Representatives  
Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests

March 2026  
Canberra

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ISBN 978-1-76092-858-2(Printed version)

ISBN 978-1-76092-859-9 (HTML version)

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## **Membership of the committee**

<b>Chair</b>	Hon Justine Elliot MP
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Mr Henry Pike MP
<b>Members</b>	Hon Scott Buchholz MP (nominee of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition)
	Ms Lisa Chesters MP
	Ms Sharon Claydon MP
	Hon Michael McCormack MP
	Mr Rob Mitchell MP
	Ms Joanne Ryan MP
	Mr Ben Small MP
	Mr David Smith MP
	Ms Anne Stanley MP (nominee of the Leader of the House)
	Mr Andrew Wilkie MP
	Mr Rick Wilson MP

This committee is supported by staff of the Department of the House of Representatives.



- 1.1 Professor David Lindenmayer AO has made an application, under the procedure adopted by the House on 27 August 1997, for the publication of a response to a reference made in relation to him by Hon Darren Chester MP on 27 October 2025 in the Federation Chamber.
- 1.2 In considering the submission from Professor Lindenmayer, the committee has had regard to the terms of the House's resolution of 27 August 1997 (reproduced at Appendix A) and the guidelines which the committee has developed under paragraph (9) of the resolution (reproduced at Appendix B).
- 1.3 The committee considers Professor Lindenmayer should be given a response, and the terms of the response have been agreed by him and the committee. A copy of the response is at Appendix C.
- 1.4 In agreeing to the response, the committee notes, as required by the resolution of the House for rights of reply, that it has not considered or judged the truth of any statement made by a Member in the House or by the person seeking a response.
- 1.5 The committee recommends that a response by Professor Lindenmayer (at Appendix C) to a reference made about him, on 27 October 2025 in the Federation Chamber, be incorporated in Hansard.

HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP  
Chair  
3 March 2026





## **Appendix A**

### **Right of reply of persons referred to in the House**

*Resolution adopted 27 August 1997*

That:

(1) Where a person who has been referred to by name, or in such a way as to be readily identified, in the House, makes a submission in writing to the Speaker:

(a) claiming that the person has been adversely affected in reputation or in respect of dealings or associations with others, or injured in occupation, trade, office or financial credit, or that the person's privacy has been unreasonably invaded, by reason of that reference to the person; and

(b) requesting that the person be able to incorporate an appropriate response in the parliamentary record;

and if the Speaker is satisfied:

(c) that the subject of the submission is not so obviously trivial or the submission so frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character as to make it inappropriate that it be considered by the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests; and

(d) that it is practicable for the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests to consider the submission under this resolution,

the Speaker shall refer the submission to that Committee.

(2) The Committee may decide not to consider a submission referred to it under this resolution if the Committee considers that the subject of the submission is not sufficiently serious or the submission is frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character, and such a decision shall be reported to the House.

(3) If the Committee decides to consider a submission under this resolution, the Committee may confer with the person who made the submission and any Member who referred in the House to that person.

(4) In considering a submission under this resolution, the Committee shall meet in private session.

(5) The Committee shall not publish a submission referred to it under this resolution or its proceedings in relation to such a submission, but may present minutes of its proceedings and all or part of such submission to the House.

(6) In considering a submission under this resolution and reporting to the House the Committee shall not consider or judge the truth of any statements made in the House or of the submission.

(7) In its report to the House on a submission under this resolution, the Committee may make either of the following recommendations:

(a) that no further action be taken by the House or by the Committee in relation to the submission; or

(b) that a response by the person who made the submission, in terms specified in the report and agreed to by the person and the Committee, be published by the House or incorporated in *Hansard*,

and shall not make any other recommendations.

(8) A document presented to the House under paragraph (5) or (7):

(a) in the case of a response by a person who made a submission, shall be succinct and strictly relevant to the questions in issue and shall not contain anything offensive in character; and

(b) shall not contain any matter the publication of which would have the effect of:

(i) unreasonably adversely affecting or injuring a person, or unreasonably invading a person's privacy, in the manner referred to in paragraph (1); or

(ii) unreasonably adding to or aggravating any such adverse effect, injury or invasion of privacy suffered by a person.

(9) The Committee may agree to guidelines and procedures, not inconsistent with this resolution, to apply to the consideration by it of submissions.

(10) This resolution shall continue in force unless and until amended or rescinded by the House in this or a subsequent Parliament.





## **Appendix B**

### **Protection of persons referred to in the House**

**Guidelines made under clause 9 of the resolution of the House of 27 August 1997,  
amended 13 February 2008 am  
Supplementary to the provisions of the resolution**

The Committee of Privileges and Members Interests will consider each application for the publication of a response on its merits, but proposes that the following guidelines apply to the procedure:

- (1) an application must be received within 3 months of the making of the statement to which the person wishes to respond unless, because of exceptional circumstances, the committee agrees to consider an application received later;
- (2) applications should only be considered from natural persons, they should not be considered if lodged by or on behalf of corporations, businesses, firms, organisations or institutions;
- (3) applications should only be considered from persons who are Australian citizens or residents;
- (4) an application must demonstrate that a person who is named, or readily identified, has been subject to clear, direct and personal attack or criticism, and has been damaged as a result;

- (5) applications must be concise, be in the character of a refutation or explanation only and must be confined to showing the statement complained of and the person's response and must not contain any offensive material;
- (6) applications concerning statements made in the Federation Chamber may be considered;
- (7) applications should not be considered from persons who wish to respond to a statement or remarks made in connection with the proceedings of a standing or select committee - such persons should contact the committee direct on the matter; and
- (8) in considering applications, the committee will have regard to the existence of other remedies that may be available to a person referred to in the House and whether they have been exercised.



## **Appendix C**

### **Response by Professor David Lindenmayer to remarks made by the Member for Gippsland**

The statements made by the Member for Gippsland on 27 October 2025 misrepresented my research integrity and professional conduct. My published research is subject to independent peer review and is supported by publicly available data and methodology. I have at all times complied with institutional and funding body requirements, including conflict-of-interest disclosure and ethics approvals. No finding has ever been made by any university, funding agency, or independent body that I engaged in misconduct or misused research funds. The Member's assertions that I acted improperly are incorrect. Where relevant, all collaborations have been governed by written agreements, transparency obligations, and applicable procurement and research governance frameworks.