

Report concerning an application from Ms Harriett Swift for the publication of a response to references made in the House of Representatives

**House of Representatives
Committee of Privileges**

August 2007
Canberra



Membership of the Committee

Chair Mr Cameron Thompson MP

Deputy Chair Hon Warren Snowdon MP

Members Ms Anna Burke MP
Mrs Trish Draper MP
Mrs Joanna Gash MP
Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP
Mr Daryl Melham MP
Ms Tanya Plibersek MP (Representative of Deputy Leader of the Opposition)
Mr Don Randall MP
Hon Roger Price MP
Mr Alex Somlyay MP (Representative of Leader of the House)

Committee Secretariat

Secretary Mr David Elder

Research Officer Ms Claressa Surtees

Administrative Officer Ms Laura Gillies

- 1.1 Ms Harriett Swift has made an application, under the procedure adopted by the House on 27 August 1997, for the publication of a response to references made about her in the House by a number of Members on 14 June 2007. The remarks of Members were made in a debate on the implementation of a recommendation made by the House Standing Committee of Privileges in its report entitled 'Allegations of documents fraudulently and inaccurately written and issued in a Members' name'. Ms Swift also made reference to the report and sought a response to it.
- 1.2 The Committee notes that the guidelines under which the Committee considers applications for responses state:
- 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 committee or select committee - such persons should contact the committee direct on the matter (paragraph 7 of the guidelines).
- 1.3 The Committee considers that the remarks in the House on 14 June 2007 followed on from the proceedings of the House Standing Committee of Privileges, and that the Committee's report (referred to earlier) fully canvassed all the issues.
- 1.4 The Committee considers that Ms Swift's application is not in accordance with the guidelines and recommends that no further action be taken by the House or the Committee on the application.

CAMERON THOMPSON MP
Chair
August 2007