

## **Attachment 7**

**Letter dated 28 July 2009 from Ms Puertollano to  
committee secretary**





28<sup>th</sup> July, 2009

Rowena Puertollano  
Po Box 37  
Broome WA 6725

Senate Committee Secretary  
Australian Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT  
2600

**Attention:** Mr Peter Hallahan, Senate Committee Secretary.

**Re: Inquiry into Access to Justice and Parliamentary Privilege.**

Dear Mr Hallahan,

Further to my discussion with both, yourself and representatives on the Senate Standing Committee on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 in relation to both my submission and receipt of 'Letter of Warning' from my employer, Aboriginal Legal Services, Western Australia, my understanding in this discussion and response to this concern was that:

- ***A formal request to ALSWA from the Senate Committee to withdraw the 'letter of warning' issued to me, be actioned immediately .***

Since this discussion, I have had no update or acknowledgement that:

1. A request to ALSWA to withdraw the letter has been sent from the Committee
2. No receipt from ALSWA acknowledging this request by the Senate Committee

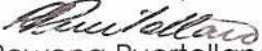
Due to the written warning that ALSWA has refused to withdraw with or without the formal request from the committee and the conduct of ALSWA, has effectively undermined my role as coordinator and as a result of this, has left me no other option but to seek other employment. I effectively resigned from my position on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2009 and I consider this has been a case of constructive dismissal, where I have been placed in an untenable position by ALSWA.

Finally, I would like confirmation in relation to ALSWA 'breach' of Parliamentary Privileges in the following:

1. Confirmation a letter has been forwarded to ALSWA via Committee
2. Confirmation of ALSWA'S response and acceptance of their responsibilities in their breach
3. Confirmation on all processes relating to the breach being followed through to the full extent of the law.

I look forward to the Committee's support, acknowledgment and response to this request in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

  
Rowena Puertollano