

Attachment 8

**Letter dated 3 August 2009 from committee secretary to
Ms Puertollano**



**THE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

3 August 2009

Mr Rowena Puertollano
PO Box 37
BROOME WA 6725

Dear Ms Puertollano

Thank you for your letter of 28 July.

I can confirm that two letters were forwarded to the ALSWA via the committee. The first was sent to Ms Carlisle, and that letter advised the ALSWA of the possible breach of Parliamentary Privilege and recommended that the warning letter be withdrawn. This was dated 29 June, and was sent to the Perth offices of the ALSWA.

I can confirm that the ALSWA did respond to the committee's first letter. The committee then prepared a further letter to the ALSWA on 13 July, which was signed by the Chair, Senator Barnett, and hand delivered by me to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Dennis Eggington in Perth on that day. A copy of that letter is attached.

It is unclear from your letter of 28 July whether you received any letter from the ALSWA withdrawing the written warning. I am advised that on 13 July, Mr Eggington wrote to you stating that the letter of warning was withdrawn. According to the letterhead, this letter was sent to PO Box 919, Broome, and a copy was provided to the committee. Could you please advise of whether you ever received a copy of that letter and if so, the date on which you received it?

You ask for confirmation of all processes relating to the breach being followed to the full extent of the law. They are being followed to the full extent as prescribed under the Parliament's resolutions. The committee is currently preparing a report to the Senate on this matter, and in that report, the committee is likely to publish all correspondence on the matter. (This has been past practice in such cases, but I am not able to pre-empt a decision of the committee to publish). It will then be a matter for the Senate to determine whether the matter will be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges for further action.

I have tried to ring you but the phone number I have for you isn't answered. If there is a better number I can call, please let me know of it and I will ring to advise of any further developments.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hallahan

Secretary

