



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater
Ethics Committee



Report No. 236

58th Parliament, June 2025

Ethics Committee

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Chair | Mr Ray Stevens MP, Member for Mermaid Beach |
| Deputy Chair | Mr Peter Russo MP, Member for Toohey |
| Members | Mr Michael Crandon MP, Member for Coomera |
| | Ms Jennifer Howard MP, Member for Ipswich |
| | Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Scenic Rim |
| | Hon Leanne Linard MP, Member for Nudgee |

Committee Secretariat

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Functions and procedures

The Ethics Committee (the committee) is a statutory committee of the Queensland Parliament established under section 102 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*. The committee of the 58th Parliament was appointed by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2024.

The committee's area of responsibility includes dealing with complaints about the ethical conduct of particular members and dealing with alleged breaches of parliamentary privilege by members of the Assembly and other persons. The committee considers and reports on matters of privilege and possible contempts of parliament referred to it internally by the Speaker, the Registrar, a committee, or the House. This is an important element of the Parliament's exclusive cognisance over its own affairs, which enables it to fulfil its functions.

The committee has established procedures and practices for dealing with referrals which ensure procedural fairness and natural justice is afforded to all parties. These procedures are set out in chapters 44 and 45 of Standing Orders. The committee is also bound by the instructions regarding witnesses contained in Schedule 3 of the Standing Orders.

The committee applies the civil standard of proof, on the balance of probabilities, in making a finding of contempt. This is a lower standard than the 'beyond reasonable doubt' standard required for criminal matters. However, proof of a very high order is required to make a finding of contempt, consistent with the test applied in relation to misconduct charges at common law.

All references and webpages are current at the time of publishing.

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Background

1. This report concerns a referral from the Registrar regarding a possible contempt of Parliament by the Premier and Minister for Veterans and member for Broadwater, Hon David Crisafulli MP (the Premier) for failing to declare an interest on the Register of Members' Interests (the Register).

The referral

2. On 22 October 2024, the then Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Hon Cameron Dick MP (the member), wrote to the Registrar alleging that the then Opposition Leader and now Premier failed to notify the Registrar of a change to his register of interests within one month as required by the Standing Orders and the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA).
3. The Registrar referred this matter to the committee on 28 November 2024 as required by the Standing Orders.¹
4. The member referred to media reports that the Premier paid \$200,000 (in the form of three separate payments) to liquidators in relation to a company, Southern Edge Training. The member alleged that the Premier did not disclose the payments as liabilities in accordance with the Standing Orders.
5. Subsection 7(5)(f) of Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders requires members to provide a statement of interests containing:

... any liability exceeding the published indexed threshold of the member or a related person or a trust of which a member or a related person is a beneficiary or a private company of which a member or a related person is a shareholder or partnership of which a member or related person is a partner—

(i) the nature of the liability; and

(ii) the name of the creditor concerned; ...
6. The member referred to media reports that the Premier made three separate payments to liquidators as follows:
 - \$80,000 on 12 March 2020,
 - \$60,000 on 30 July 2020, and
 - \$60,000 on 19 July 2021.
7. The member noted that there was no record of these payments on the Premier's statement of interests for the relevant periods.

¹ Schedule 2, subsection 14(3), Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly. The Registrar is also required to give the details of the allegation to the member against whom the allegation is made. Given this matter has been raised in the House the Registrar has also provided advice to the Speaker in order to be able to enforce Standing Order 271 (the restriction on debating matters before the Ethics Committee in the House).

Obligations when considering allegations

8. Section 15 of Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders outlines the obligations on the committee when considering an allegation referred by the Registrar as follows:

- (1) *The Ethics Committee must consider each allegation referred to it, and for that purpose, may—*
 - (a) *give each member concerned the opportunity to be heard; and*
 - (b) *obtain information from such other persons, and make such inquiries, as it thinks fit; after which it may—*
 - (c) *make a report to the Legislative Assembly; and*
 - (d) *with the report, recommend the action that should be taken in relation to the matter.*
- (2) *The Ethics Committee must not make a report unless—*
 - (a) *it has given the member against whom the allegation has been made the opportunity—*
 - (i) *to be heard; and*
 - (ii) *to make written submissions; and*
 - (b) *it has given the person that the member nominates the opportunity to be heard.*

Definition of contempt

9. Section 37 of the POQA defines the meaning of ‘contempt’ of the Assembly as follows:

- (1) *“Contempt” of the Assembly means a breach or disobedience of the powers, rights or immunities, or a contempt, of the Assembly or its members or committees.*
- (2) *Conduct, including words, is not contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with—*
 - (a) *the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or*
 - (b) *the free performance by a member of the member’s duties as a member.*

Nature of contempt relating to Register of Interests

10. The examples listed in section 37 of the POQA and in Standing Order 266(24) make it clear that failing to keep an accurate statement of interests can be a contempt of Parliament.

11. Standing Order 266(24) provides:

Contravening the requirements and orders imposed by the operation of the Parliament of Queensland Act (see also Examples 7 and 8 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act and s.58 Criminal Code).

12. Section 37 (example 7) of the POQA provides that a contravention of subsections 69B(1), (2) or (4) of the POQA is an example of a contempt.
13. Section 69B of the POQA provides:
- (1) *A member must, within 1 month after taking the member's seat, give to the registrar the following statements—*
 - (a) *a statement of the interest, as at the date of the election, of the member (a statement of interests (member));*
 - (b) *a statement of the interest, as at the date of the election, of which the member is aware of each person who is a related person of the member (a statement of interests (related persons)).*
 - (2) *A member must, within 1 month after becoming aware of a change in the particulars contained in the last statement of interests given by the member, notify the registrar in writing of a change.*
 - ...
 - (4) *A member must not give to the registrar a statement of interests or information relating to a statement of interests the member knows is false or misleading in a material particular.*
14. Section 18 of Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders sets out the requirements for a finding of contempt:
- A member who—*
- (a) **knowingly** *fails to give a statement of interests to the Register as required;*
 - (b) **knowingly** *fails to notify the Registrar of a change of details contained in a statement of interest;*
- or*
- (c) *breaches s 69B(4) of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001,*
- is guilty of a contempt of the Parliament and may be dealt with accordingly.*
- [Emphasis added]

The committee's proceedings

15. The committee applies the civil standard of proof, on the balance of probabilities, in making a finding of contempt. This is a lower standard than the 'beyond reasonable doubt' standard required for criminal matters. However, proof of a very high order is required to make a finding of contempt, consistent with the test applied in relation to misconduct charges at common law.²
16. On 11 December 2024, the committee resolved to write to the Premier and the Registrar to seek further information as part of its preliminary assessment of the allegation, with both providing a response to the committee.

² In the leading High Court authority in the area, *Briginshaw v Briginshaw* (1938) 60 CLR 336, Latham CJ at 343-344 stated: 'The standard of proof required by a cautious and responsible tribunal will naturally vary in accordance with the seriousness and importance of the issue'.

17. On 19 February 2025, the committee resolved to write to the Premier requesting further information.
18. On 5 March 2025, the Premier provided a response to the committee.
19. On 2 April 2025, the Registrar provided advice to the committee, and the committee resolved to write to the Premier requesting further information.
20. On 16 April 2025, the Premier provided a response to the committee.
21. Based on the submissions from the Premier and the advice of the Registrar, the committee determined that it had sufficient information to deliberate on the allegation.³
22. With respect to allegations of a failure to register an interest, the committee applies two separate tests derived from the Standing Orders, as elements in whether a contempt can be established:
 1. Did the matter require disclosure, and
 2. If the matter required disclosure, has the non-disclosure resulted in a contempt?

Consideration

Element 1: Did the matter require disclosure?

23. The purpose of the Register is to place on record any pecuniary or other relevant interests of a member which may give rise to a conflict of interest or a perception of a conflict of interest between a member's private interests and the public interest. The Register seeks to provide information which might be thought by others to affect a member's public duties, or to influence their speeches or votes in the Legislative Assembly.⁴
24. Subsection 7(5)(f) of Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders requires members to provide a statement of interests containing:

... any liability exceeding the published indexed threshold of the member or a related person or a trust of which a member or a related person is a beneficiary or a private company of which a member or a related person is a shareholder or partnership of which a member or related person is a partner—

 - (iii) *the nature of the liability; and*
 - (iv) *the name of the creditor concerned; ...*
25. The published indexed threshold from 14 February 2018 to 6 October 2020 was \$19,000 and from 6 October 2020 onwards was \$19,399.⁵

³ In accordance with Standing Order 211B(3) the minutes of the committee's proceedings and submissions received in relation to this matter are attached to this report.

⁴ Schedule 2 – Registers of Interests, Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

⁵ Published Indexed Threshold from 14 February 2018 to 5 October 2020: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5618T152/5618t152.pdf>;

26. Schedule 2 defines liability as:

An obligation that legally binds a member, or related person to settle a debt and includes a loan of money or guarantee and any instrument pursuant to that loan (such as a mortgage) but does not include:

- (a) department store and credit card accounts;*
- (b) a liability arising from the supply of goods or services supplied in the ordinary course of any occupation of the member or business of the trust or private company or partnership in which the member or related person has an interest which is not related to the member's duties as a member of the Legislative Assembly; or*
- (c) a loan owing to or a guarantee from or for a family member where the liability relates to a purely personal matter, and there is no connection or possible conflict of interest between the member's duties and the interest of the person providing the loan or guarantee.*

27. In his first submission to the committee, the Premier stated that he did not have a liability as defined in the standing orders:

To the extent that it might be thought that there was a liability satisfied by any of the payments, I note that the payments were made in order to compromise certain statutory claims that a party was threatening to pursue by litigation, but which had not been established. 'Liability' as it is defined in the Schedule does not extend to claims which have yet to be litigated and are not based on an accepted basis for a debt such as one arising in contract.

28. In his response to the committee's request for information, the Clerk (as Registrar) provided:

In respect of whether the matter was a liability that required disclosure, my view on receipt of the complaint was that the committee would need to determine the circumstances that led to each payment in the complaint and determine whether there was a legally binding obligation to settle a debt at any time that was outstanding.

29. While the Premier asserted that he did not have a liability to declare on the register, based on the information provided by the Clerk, the committee determined that there were insufficient particulars of the payments or supporting evidence put forward to allow the committee to assess and verify the Premier's assertion.

30. As such, the committee requested further information from the Premier regarding the nature of the payments, and the Premier advised:

The settlement was reached with PWC liquidators, and this was also the entity which received the payments. The payments were made with the joint understanding of no admission of liability and no findings made against me.

In relation to The Committee's query about the payments, I can confirm the payments and the timeframe were as a result of a single settlement. The reason I did not think there was a liability was it was a Settlement where I agreed to relinquish my claim, the Liquidators agreed there were no allegations against me and there was no admission of Liability.

31. The committee again determined that there was insufficient material put forward to make a determination on the first element and once again requested the Premier provide a copy of the settlement.
32. The committee received a copy of the Deed of Settlement and resolved to keep the Deed confidential to the committee.
33. The Premier did not dispute that he made the following three payments to liquidators as reported publicly:
 - \$80,000 on 12 March 2020;
 - \$60,000 on 30 July 2020; and
 - \$60,000 on 19 July 2021.⁶
34. Based on the information provided, the committee determined that there was an agreement (ie. the Deed of Settlement) to make payments which created a legally binding obligation to settle a debt, as per the definition of liability under the standing orders.
35. The committee also determined the Premier had a liability that required disclosure from September 2019 when the Deed of Settlement was signed until July 2021 when the last payment was made.
36. As such, the committee determined that this element was made out.

Element 2: If the matter required disclosure, did the non-disclosure result in a contempt?

37. As outlined above, a failure to register an interest is a contempt if the member:
 - knowingly fails to give a statement of interests to the Registrar as required
 - knowingly fails to notify the Registrar of a change of details contained in a statement of interest, or
 - breaches s 69B(4) of the POQA.⁷

⁶ This publicly reported payment schedule was put to the Premier and he did not raise a dispute with these facts.

⁷ Section 18 of Schedule 2, Standing Orders.

38. Previous ethics committees have determined that a high threshold is required to prove the 'knowingly' element of the contempt.⁸ In this case, the committee determined it would have to be satisfied, on the balance of probabilities and applying the *Briginshaw* principle, that the Premier knew that he had a liability to disclose and intentionally chose not to disclose it.
39. In assessing this element, the committee considered precedent matters where a member has been found to have knowingly failed to register an interest.
40. There have been three matters in which the knowingly element has been proven and resulted in a finding of contempt – Report 105 and Report 114 concerning former member Mr Gordon Nuttall MP and Report 139 concerning former member Mr Scott Driscoll MP.⁹
41. In Report Nos. 105 and 114, the committee noted that when there was some ambiguity in the requirement to disclosure, the member was provided some benefit of the doubt. If it was a well-known and often-declared interest, the committee would place more weight on the argument that the member acted knowingly.
42. In Report No. 139, the committee drew conclusions about what the member ought to have known based on the information before the committee which included that the member attended the new members' induction and that the member declined an offer to meet with the Clerk as Registrar.¹⁰
43. The committee acknowledges that the circumstances surrounding the examination of the precedents in the Nuttall and Driscoll matters are distinct from the current matter. In both Nuttall matters and the Driscoll matter there were related Crime and

⁸ Ethics Committee, Report No. 205, Matter of Privilege referred by the Registrar on 11 March 2021 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the register of members' interests, p 27: <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/tabledpapers/2021/5721T650.pdf>

⁹ Ethics Committee, Report 105, Matter of Privilege Referred by the Speaker on 13 November 2006 Relating to the Alleged Failure by a Former Member to Register a Payment Received in the Register of

Members' Interests: https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/committees/ETHICS/2006/Matter_of_privilege131106/Report105.pdf;

Ethics Committee, Report 114, Matter of Privilege Referred by the Registrar on 18 November 2010 Relating to the Alleged Failure by a Member to Register an Interest in the Register of Members' Interests: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5311t4248/5311t4248.pdf>;

Ethics Committee, Report 139, Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 19 March 2013 relating to an alleged failure of a member to register interests in the Register of Members' Interest and Register of Related Persons' Interest and Matter of Privilege referred by the Speaker on 4 June 2013 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by a member: <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/committees/ETHICS/2013/Matter-of-privilege04Jun2013/rpt-139-19Nov2013.pdf>.

¹⁰ Ethics Committee, Report 139, Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 19 March 2013 relating to an alleged failure of a member to register interests in the Register of Members' Interest and Register of Related Persons' Interest and Matter of Privilege referred by the Speaker on 4 June 2013 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by a member: <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/committees/ETHICS/2013/Matter-of-privilege04Jun2013/rpt-139-19Nov2013.pdf>.

Misconduct Commission investigations and criminal proceedings, leaving little ambiguity in the committee's consideration of whether the members acted 'knowingly'.

44. As part of its assessment, the committee also considered several precedents where the matter required disclosure, but the member was not found to have satisfied the 'knowingly' aspect of the second element.
45. For example, in Report No. 201 regarding the member for Nanango, Hon Deb Frecklington MP, the committee found that her failure to declare that she was a shareholder of a company was inadvertent and that she fell into a mistaken belief that the interest was no longer in existence. The member corrected this error as soon as she was made aware.¹¹
46. In Report No. 205, the member for Whitsunday, Hon Amanda Camm MP, was found to have failed to register her interest in a company. With respect to the knowingly element, the committee made the following commentary in that matter:

The inclusion of the word 'knowingly' in section 18 of Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders distinguishes intentional from inadvertent acts. Previous committees, in considering similar allegations acknowledged inadvertent acts and took account of a member's efforts to rectify issues in relation to their register of interests in a timely fashion.

In this matter, when the member became aware of the issue, the member sought advice from the Clerk of the Parliament and updated her register of interests in a timely manner.

47. These precedents show that in cases of inadvertent failures to register an interest, the committee looks favourably on a member seeking the advice of the Clerk and rectifying their register as soon as possible.
48. Based on the precedents and the information before the committee, the committee sought to weigh the arguments for and against the Premier having knowledge of the requirement to declare a liability to make a determination on this element.
49. The committee identified arguments for the Premier having knowledge:
 - The Premier was first elected as the member for Mundingburra in 2012 and then again as the member for Broadwater in 2017. The Clerk advised that the Premier attended the Register of Interests session during the 2018 induction and met privately with the Clerk with respect to his interests on 5 March 2018.

¹¹ Ethics Committee, Report 201, Matter of Privilege referred by the Registrar on 23 October 2019 relating to an alleged failure to register an interest in the register of members' interests, pp 4-5: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Documents/TableOffice/TabledPapers/2020/5620T1305.pdf>;

- The Premier has previously been the subject of a register of interests matter before the committee in Report 198.¹² The committee found that being director and secretary of Revalot Pty Ltd were both interests that the member for Broadwater was under an obligation to disclose. While the member for Broadwater was late registering his interest as director of Revalot Pty Ltd, and initially failed to register his interest as secretary, the committee determined these failures were not undertaken knowingly.¹³
- Once alerted to his misunderstanding of the requirements of the Register, the committee considered that the member for Broadwater took appropriate steps in both apologising and rectifying his statement, and that no further consideration of the matter was required.
- Report 198 was tabled in April 2020. While the Deed was executed prior to this former referral being made to the Ethics Committee, the second and third payments of the settlement in the current matter were made in July 2020 and July 2021 (the first being made in March 2020).
- The Premier's liability existed from September 2019 until July 2021. The Thirty-Third and Thirty-Fourth Reports on the Register of Members' Interests were tabled during this time, providing multiple opportunities for the Premier to disclose the liability.¹⁴
- The Clerk advised, and the Premier confirmed, that he did not seek advice from the Clerk in relation to this matter. This was despite a reminder in the context of Report 198 that members had a positive obligation upon them to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the Register and if in any doubt to seek assistance from the Clerk as Registrar.
- The Code of Ethical Standards reiterates this positive obligation: 'it is the responsibility of each member to conscientiously comply with the requirements of the Register of Members' and Related Persons' Interests...'.¹⁵

¹² Ethics Committee, Report 198, Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 16 October 2019 relating to an alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests: <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/tabledpapers/2020/5620T645.pdf>.

¹³ Ibid. The first allegation being that the Member for Broadwater failed to declare he was director of Revalot Pty Ltd within the required timeframe; the second allegation being that he failed to declare whatsoever that he was secretary of Revalot Pty Ltd; and the third allegation being that the Member for Broadwater failed to declare a property at Lannercost within the required timeframe.

¹⁴ Thirty-Third Report on the Register of Members' Interests, pp 18-19: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5620T1341/5620t1341.pdf>; Thirty-Fourth Report on the Register of Members' Interests, p 18: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5721T191/5721t191.pdf>.

¹⁵ Legislative Assembly of Queensland, Code of Ethical Standards, February 2025, p 16: <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/assembly/procedures/codeofethicalstandards.pdf>.

50. The committee identified arguments for the Premier not having knowledge:
- The assessment of a matter under this category of the register of interests is a novel issue and there is some ambiguity in the definition of liability under the Standing Orders. That is, it is not as clear cut as other categories such as declaring a gift.
 - The Premier spoke to his state of mind and noted that he did not intentionally fail to comply with the requirements of the register of interests. In his first submission he stated:
I deny having intended, at any point, to refrain from complying with my responsibilities under the Schedule; much less make a knowingly false statement in the course of such compliance.
 - The Premier conceded that it was remiss of him not to seek advice from the Clerk about this particular matter. In his second submission, the Premier stated:
While I did receive legal counsel, in hindsight, it is clear to me I should have consulted with the Clerk on this matter.
If the Committee decides I should have declared a liability, I can only apologise and assure The Committee it was an honest mistake and by no means deliberate or knowing.
 - Based on his submissions, the Premier's state of mind appears to have been mistakenly focused on dealing with the issue in the context of director liabilities under corporate law rather than his obligations under the Standing Orders.
 - In the context of the purpose of the Register, the committee cannot identify how the alleged failure to declare the liability would give rise to a conflict of interest or a perception of a conflict of interest between the Premier's private interests and the public interest.
51. The committee identified that making a finding on the balance of probabilities involves applying the reasoning from *Briginshaw v Briginshaw* (1938) 60 CLR 336. The *Briginshaw* test essentially means that determining an outcome to the civil standard of the balance of probabilities is dependent on the nature of the allegation and the possible consequences. The higher the consequence, the more persuasive the evidence must be.
52. The committee determined that the consequences of a member being found to have knowingly failed to register an interest have the potential to be high. Therefore, in applying *Briginshaw*, the evidence must be very persuasive to make a finding.
53. The committee notes that there is some evidence that the Premier *ought* to have known that such payments were to be declared or at least turned his mind to the issue and sought the Registrar's advice. This is in the context of the Premier having attended two inductions, personally meeting with the Clerk to discuss requirements of the register and being the subject of a previous register of interests matter.

54. Whilst this was a difficult issue for the committee to reconcile, the committee was of the view that on balance, it did not have evidence to meet the threshold required to prove that the Premier knowingly did not disclose the liability.
55. The committee is of the view that the Premier was however, careless in the discharge of his obligations as a member by not including the liability on the register of interests.
56. The committee ultimately determines that the second element cannot be made out on the civil standard of the balance of probabilities due to the high threshold that the Briginshaw principle requires.
57. As such, the committee finds that the second element is not satisfied.

Conclusions

58. Based on the information before the committee, the committee found that the Premier was required to disclose three payments made on 12 March 2020, 30 July 2020 and 19 July 2021 as liabilities in accordance with section 7(5)(f) of Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.
59. Based on the information before the committee, the committee could not make out the second element that the Premier knowingly did not disclose the liability.
60. Therefore, the Premier is not guilty of a contempt of failing to declare an interest in the member's register of interests.

Recommendation

61. The committee recommends that the House take no further action in relation to this matter.



Recommendation

The committee recommends that the House take no further action in relation to this matter.

Committee comment

62. The committee again emphasises the important positive obligation on all members to declare their interests in accordance with the requirements of the Standing Orders. Members need to be proactive in this regard and if the requirements are unclear, to seek advice from the Clerk as Registrar.
63. Members are also specifically reminded of the 'catch-all' provision in s 7(5)(n) of Schedule 2, to declare any other interest (whether or not of a pecuniary nature) of the member or a related person of which the member is aware, and that raises, appears to raise, or could foreseeably raise, a conflict between the member's private interest and their duty as a member.

64. In order for the committee to effectively carry out its duties to consider matters referred to it, it is vital that members cooperate and the committee receives comprehensive information as requested.
65. Lastly, the committee also emphasises the paramount principle contained in standing orders that:

It is vital that in a representative democracy the public have confidence in the integrity of their elected representatives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ray Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R'.

Mr Ray Stevens MP

Chair

June 2025

ETHICS COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Standing Order 211B(3) provides that when the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter, the committee shall at the same time, table in the House:

- (a) The minutes of its proceedings relevant to the matter; and
- (b) Any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter (including transcripts of hearings) unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential.

The relevant minutes and evidence in respect of this matter are attached to this report.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE REGISTRAR ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024
RELATING TO THE ALLEGED FAILURE TO REGISTER AN INTEREST IN THE
REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS BY THE MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 1

Wednesday, 11 December 2024, 1.01pm
Committee Room 3, Parliamentary Annexe

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP
Ms Jennifer Howard MP
Mr Jon Krause MP
Ms Leanne Linard MP
Mr Peter Russo MP

In attendance

Ms Bernice Watson, First Clerk Assistant (Committees)
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer

Inquiry 1 – Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the committee write to the Premier and member for Broadwater in accordance with section 15(1)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Standing Orders in the terms of the draft letter provided, and the committee write to the Clerk in accordance with section 15(1)(b) of Schedule 2 to the Standing Orders in the terms of the draft letter provided.

Moved: Mr Russo

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE REGISTRAR ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024
RELATING TO THE ALLEGED FAILURE TO REGISTER AN INTEREST IN THE
REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS BY THE MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 3

Wednesday, 19 February 2025, 1.03pm

Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, Deputy Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP
Ms Jennifer Howard MP
Mr Jon Krause MP
Ms Leanne Linard MP

In attendance

Ms Erin Hastie, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer

Inquiry 1 – Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater

Submissions from the Premier and the Clerk, secretariat's briefing paper and draft letter were circulated.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the committee write to Premier and member for Broadwater seeking further information in the terms of the draft letter provided.

Moved: Mr Russo

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE REGISTRAR ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024
RELATING TO THE ALLEGED FAILURE TO REGISTER AN INTEREST IN THE
REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS BY THE MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 4

Thursday, 13 March 2025, 1.04pm

Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, Deputy Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP
Ms Jennifer Howard MP
Mr Jon Krause MP
Ms Leanne Linard MP

In attendance

Ms Erin Hastie, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer

Inquiry 1 – Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater

The additional submission from the Premier, the secretariat's briefing paper and draft letters were circulated.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the committee invite the Clerk to the committee's next meeting to provide advice on the matter and authorised the committee secretary to provide all relevant material to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Moved: Mr Russo

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE REGISTRAR ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024
RELATING TO THE ALLEGED FAILURE TO REGISTER AN INTEREST IN THE
REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS BY THE MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 5
Wednesday, 2 April 2025, 1.00pm
Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, Deputy Chair
Mr Stephen Bennett MP (substitute under SO 202)
Mr Michael Crandon MP
Ms Jennifer Howard MP
Ms Leanne Linard MP

In attendance

Mr Neil Laurie, Clerk of the Parliament (until 1.48pm)
Ms Erin Hastie, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer

1. Apologies

Mr Krause was an apology.

Noted

Correspondence from the Leader of the House appointing Mr Bennett as a substitute member under SO 202.

Inquiry 1 – Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater

The secretariat's updated briefing paper, precedent register and draft letter was circulated.

Mr Laurie provided an oral briefing to the committee.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the committee write to the Premier seeking further information in the terms of the letter provided, as amended .

Moved: Ms Linard

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE REGISTRAR ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024
RELATING TO THE ALLEGED FAILURE TO REGISTER AN INTEREST IN THE
REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS BY THE MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 6

Thursday, 1 May 2025, 1.11pm

Parliamentary Annexe, Committee Room 3

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, Deputy Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP
Ms Jennifer Howard MP
Mr Jon Krause MP
Ms Leanne Linard MP

In attendance

Ms Erin Hastie, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer

Inquiry 1 – Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater

The Premier's response and the secretariat's updated briefing paper was circulated.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the committee hold over the matter until the next meeting.

Moved: Mr Russo

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE REGISTRAR ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024
RELATING TO THE ALLEGED FAILURE TO REGISTER AN INTEREST IN THE
REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS BY THE MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 7

Thursday, 21 May 2025, 1.00pm
Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, Deputy Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP
Ms Jennifer Howard MP
Mr Jon Krause MP
Ms Leanne Linard MP

In attendance

Ms Amanda Honeyman, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer
Ms Erin Hastie, Acting First Clerk Assistant (Committees)

Inquiry 1 – Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater

The Premier's response and the secretariat's updated briefing paper was re-circulated.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the committee find the first element is made out, but the second element cannot be made out on the facts, and direct the secretariat to draft a report in those terms.

Moved: Mr Russo

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE REGISTRAR ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024 RELATING TO THE ALLEGED FAILURE TO REGISTER AN INTEREST IN THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS BY THE MEMBER FOR BROADWATER



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 10

Thursday, 26 June 2025, 1.06pm

Parliamentary Annexe, Committee Room 3 and teleconference

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, member for Mermaid Beach, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, member for Toohey, Deputy Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP, member for Coomera
Ms Jennifer Howard MP, member for Ipswich (by teleconference)
Mr Jon Krause MP, member for Scenic Rim
Hon Leanne Linard MP, member for Nudgee

In attendance

Ms Amanda Honeyman, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer
Ms Erin Hastie, Acting First Clerk Assistant (Committees)

Inquiry 1 – Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests by the member for Broadwater

The Chair's draft report and correspondence to be tabled with the report were circulated.

The committee agreed to the following amendments:

- at paragraph 31, the words 'once again' were added after the word 'and' and before the word 'requested'
- A new paragraph 64 was added 'In order for the committee to effectively carry out its duties to consider matters referred to it, it is vital that members cooperate and the committee receives comprehensive information as requested.'
- Paragraph 64 was re-numbered to 65.

Resolved

That the committee adopt Draft Report No. 236, as amended, as a report of the committee and authorises its tabling.

Moved: Mr Russo

Resolved

(1) That the committee table with its report:

- (a) Correspondence dated 28 November 2024 from the Registrar referring the matter to the committee
- (b) Correspondence dated 11 December to the Clerk

- (c) Correspondence dated 12 December to the Premier
 - (d) Correspondence dated 8 January 2025 from the Premier
 - (e) Correspondence dated 31 January 2025 from the Clerk
 - (f) Correspondence dated 19 February 2025 to the Premier
 - (g) Correspondence dated 5 March 2025 from the Premier
 - (h) Correspondence dated 3 April 2025 to the Premier
 - (i) Correspondence dated 16 April 2025 from the Premier, as redacted, and
- (2) That the attachment to the correspondence from the Premier dated 16 April 2025 remain confidential to the committee and the committee notes that the relevant material is directly referred to in the report on the matter.

Moved: Mr Russo

Extracts certified correct on 26 June 2025



Ray Stevens MP
Chair



Queensland Parliamentary Service

THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

Parliament House Ph: +61 7 3553 6451
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
email: ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.parliament.qld.gov.au

Our Ref: A1360398

28 November 2024

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair
Ethics Committee

ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Stevens

On 22 October 2024 I received correspondence from the then Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Hon Cameron Dick MP, making a complaint against the Member for Broadwater in accordance with s.14 of Schedule 2 of the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* for failing to comply with Schedule 2.

In accordance with s.14(3) I must refer an allegation by a member, made in writing, to the Ethics Committee.

I was unable to action this matter until the Ethics Committee of the 58th Parliament was established. Now the committee has been established, I refer the allegation to the committee and attach a copy of the complaint.

I am also required to give the details of the allegation to the member and, therefore, advise I have informed the member of the referral and provided the member a copy of the complaint.

I note the matter was raised in the House in the last parliament. I am concerned about the risk that the matter will be raised in debate in the House, therefore, I have informed Mr Speaker of the referral and a Speaker's statement formally advising the House will be made.

I am, of course, available to assist the committee upon its request.

Yours sincerely

Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament

Enc



The Hon. Cameron Dick MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Trade and Investment

1 William St Brisbane
GPO Box 611 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone 07 3719 7100
Email deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.treasury.qld.gov.au

ABN 90 856 020 239

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament

Email: clerksoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Pursuant to Subclause 14(1) and 14 (2) of Schedule 2 of Standing Rules and Orders to the Legislative Assembly, effective 31 August 2024 (the Standing Orders), I am writing to you, a failure to declare a “liability” as per Subclause 7(5)(f) of Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders by the Member for Broadwater, Mr David Crisafulli MP.

On 16 August 2024 and 16 October 2024 it was reported by ABC News and The Australian newspaper respectively that the Member for Broadwater paid \$200,000 to settle claims from liquidators in relation to the collapse of Southern Edge Training. Copies of these articles are attached.

According to the ABC on 16 August 2024, the Member for Broadwater made three payments to liquidators totalling \$200,000 during 2020 and 2021, specifically:

- \$80,000 on 12 March 2020;
- \$60,000 on 30 July 2020; and
- \$60,000 on 19 July 2021.

Additionally on 16 October 2022 in The Australian it was stated that the Member for Broadwater said he “met all of his obligations both to the business and to the parliament”

It is my view that the liability – either in full or the part payments – should have been disclosed by the Member for Broadwater pursuant to Subclause 5(f) of Schedule 2 of Standing Orders which states:

in respect of any liability exceeding the published indexed threshold of the member or a related person or a trust of which a member or a related person is a beneficiary or a private company of which a member or a related person is a shareholder or partnership of which a member or related person is a partner— (i) the nature of the liability; and (ii) the name of the creditor concerned.

It is my understanding that the indexed threshold for a liability from 14 February 2018 to 6 October 2020 liabilities over \$19,000¹ and from 6 October 2020 liability over \$19,399². Therefore, the payments to liquidators made by the Member for Broadwater, either in full or in part, should have been disclosed.

Furthermore, subclause 5(2) and 5(3) of Schedule 2 of Standing Orders state that:

¹ <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5618T102/5618t102.pdf>

² <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5620T1579/5620t1579.pdf>

- *Members are required in accordance with s.69B(2) of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to notify the Registrar within 1 month of any changes to their interest or the interests of related persons; and*
- *In addition to the requirements in s.69B of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, each member shall within 1 month of the 30th day of June in each subsequent year during the life of that Parliament, provide to the Registrar a confirmation of correct particulars.*

To my knowledge and based on public records, the Member for Broadwater has not included the liability in full or as part payments in the Register of Members' Interests tabled to Parliament since the first payment was reportedly made. For clarity these are:

- Thirty Third Report on the Register of Members' Interests tabled to Parliament on 13 August 2020³, p.18.
- Thirty Fourth Report on the Register of Members' Interests tabled to Parliament on 25 February 2021⁴, p.18.
- Thirty Fifth Report on the Register of Members' Interests tabled to Parliament on 18 August 2022⁵, p. 21-22.
- Thirty Sixth Report on the Register of Members' Interests tabled to Parliament on 24 August 2023⁶, p.21-22.
- Thirty Seventh Report on the Register of Members' Interests tabled to Parliament on 21 August 2024⁷, p.23-24.

I submit that the Member from Broadwater has not updated his Register of Members' Interests in the time required pursuant to Standing Orders and in contravention of section 69B of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.

In closing, pursuant to Subclause 14(3)(a) of Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders I respectfully request you refer the matter outlined to the Ethics Committee for consideration, upon its reconstitution.

Yours sincerely



CAMERON DICK MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Trade and Investment

22 October 2024

³ <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5620T1341/5620t1341.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5721T191/5721t191.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5722T1168/5722t1168-18db.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5723T1185/5723t1185-6a39.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5724T1567/5724t1567-943c.pdf>

Spotlight on Crisafulli role at training firm

EXCLUSIVE

SARAH ELKS
SENIOR REPORTER



LNP leader David Crisafulli quit as director and chief executive of a training company just two days after the federal regulator warned that it had uncovered serious "training quality issues" and was rejecting its national registration.

The company, Southern Edge Training, collapsed two months after he left, and an Ernst & Young audit found it had repeatedly breached its contract with the Victorian government and had made claims for "ineligible" overseas students on temporary visas, forcing the cancellation of its state funding deal.

Separately, Mr Crisafulli paid \$200,000 in three compensation payments to the company's liquidators who investigated him for insolvent trading. The liabilities were not declared on his parliamentary interest register, despite the transfers occurring in 2020 and 2021 when he was an LNP frontbencher and then opposition leader.

Mr Crisafulli was a one-term

Continued on Page 4

MORE REPORTS P4

Continued from Page 1

MP for the Townsville seat of Mundingburra until he was swept out of office in Labor premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's unexpected January 2015 election victory. By that December he was sole director and chief executive of SET, which was based in Victoria but operated there and in Queensland, propped up by millions of dollars in taxpayer funding from state and federal governments.

The Australian can reveal Mr Crisafulli quit the company on April 1, 2016, two days after the regulator ASQA told the company of its decision to reject its federal registration renewal application.

An ASQA spokeswoman said: "After compliance activities and the seriousness of the training quality issues identified, ASQA notified Southern Edge Training Pty Ltd of its decision to reject its application to renew its registration on 30 March 2016."

A report by liquidators from PwC, filed with corporate watchdog ASIC in 2019, shows investigations indicated that SET "appears to have traded while insolvent from at least 1 December 2015" and flagged seeking compensation from directors.

The LNP leader has repeatedly refused to say why he paid \$200,000 to the liquidators, but a federal department of employment spokesman said a negotiated resolution had been reached between the liquidator and Mr Crisafulli.

"The department provided funding to the liquidator to issue demands and conduct settlement negotiations in relation to insolvent trading claims against the company's directors," the spokesman said.

Court and corporate documents reveal the company had been in financial trouble for some time before Mr Crisafulli took over, but liquidators discovered several significant events occurred when he was in charge.

Five days after he took over, the Australian Taxation Office threatened legal action and issued the company with a demand for \$112,576.69 in outstanding liabilities, giving a due date of December 23. The bill was not paid, and an arrangement was only sorted out on May 20 of that year.

The company had been unable

to pay its tax debts from as early as mid-2014.

On December 22, 2015, the Victorian department of training issued the company with a non-compliance notice, warning that it had breached the funding contract, based on "an audit report identifying a number of material breaches".

The department then rejected its application for registration renewal in Victoria in March 2016, blocking its access to taxpayer funding.

A Victorian Supreme Court judgment said that on August 25 of that year, Ernst & Young finished a quality review report, identifying a "number of instances of non-compliance with the 2014-2016 SET Funding Contract" with the Victorian government worth \$39m. The department paid \$11m to the company for the 2015 calendar year.

Judge Michael Sifris, in deciding to appoint special purpose liquidators to SET, said the EY report found breaches "including, but not limited to, failure to adhere to relevant guidelines to determine student eligibility; adequate pre-training reviews of students were not completed and the quality of training services was inadequate to satisfy the contractual funding obligations".

In sworn evidence given to the special purpose liquidators, it was revealed the EY audit found that SET had wrongly considered students on temporary visas eligible for the government-funded training.

SET fell into voluntary liquidation in June 2016, in part because the company discovered EY was conducting the audit.

In a statement to The Australian, a spokeswoman for the Queensland Opposition Leader said Mr Crisafulli had "met all of his obligations both to the business and to the parliament".

"David was only at the business for four short months, nine years ago, and there are no findings against him during or since," she said.

"The fact Labor desperately held on to documents for years which confirm no wrongdoing, and never took any action inside or outside the parliament, proves this is nothing more than a desperate attack in the shadows of an election."

Queensland Opposition Leader David Crisafulli paid \$200,000 settling claims from liquidators over Southern Edge Training

By Liam Walsh Government and Politics

Fri 16 Aug 2024 at 5:36am

The screenshot shows the Southern Edge Training website. On the left, there is a large image of David Crisafulli. To his right, a table titled 'Settlement of other liquidators actions' lists payments. Below the table, there are sections for 'Business Courses', 'Hospitality', 'Logistic Course', and 'Accounting'. At the bottom right, there is a section for 'Upcoming Courses'.

| Settlement of other liquidators actions | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| 12-03-2020 | David Crisafulli Director | \$80,000.00 |
| 30-07-2020 | David Crisafulli | \$60,000.00 |

| Settlement of other liquidators actions | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| 19-07-2021 | David Crisafulli | \$60,000.00 |

Queensland Opposition Leader David Crisafulli paid \$200,000 in settling claims from liquidators who alleged a training company he was a director of may have been trading while insolvent.

Mr Crisafulli has declined to answer questions about liquidators pursuing any claims into Southern Edge Training, which had been long struggling financially before he took over as sole director for four months in 2015 and 2016.

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations confirmed to the ABC its predecessor organisation had funded liquidators to "issue demands and conduct settlement negotiations in relation to insolvent trading claims against the company's directors".

"A negotiated resolution was reached between the liquidator and Mr Crisafulli," the department said.

The department did not provide settlement details, but the ABC obtained company accounts – filed with the corporate regulator – which list three "receipts from" David Crisafulli in the "settlement of other liquidators' actions".

They were \$80,000 in March 2020, \$60,000 in July 2020, and \$60,000 in July 2021.

| Settlement of other liquidators actions | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| 19-07-2021 | David Crisafulli | \$60,000.00 |

Company accounts show three "receipts from" David Crisafulli in relation to the settlement. (ABC News: Lewi Hirvela)

Liquidators can pursue directors for allegedly failing to prevent insolvent trading, and had flagged such potential actions following Southern Edge's collapse.

But directors have defences available to such allegations, including if they have reasonable grounds to believe a company is solvent.

Settlements also can be reached in claims without anyone admitting liability.

Settlement of other liquidators actions

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 12-03-2020 | David Crisafulli Director | \$80,000.00 |
| 30-07-2020 | David Crisafulli | \$60,000.00 |

Mr Crisafulli paid \$200,000 to liquidators, according to company account records. (ABC News: Lewi Hirvela)

Opposition leader's office says 'zero findings' made against him

Asked about the settlement, Mr Crisafulli's office told the ABC: "David met all his obligations in his short four-month tenure at a company that was in long-term trouble".

"The facts are there were zero findings against him."

After the ABC published the details of the payment, Mr Crisafulli told journalists on Friday that he did not make any admissions of liability.

He declined to detail on how he paid for settlement costs but again maintained he had met obligations and "learnt a few lessons on the way".

Mr Crisafulli was a shadow minister during those first two payments, and opposition leader during the third.

The federal department funding the claims was then under the Morrison Coalition government – conservative colleagues of Mr Crisafulli's LNP.



Scott Morrison was Australia's prime minister at the time. (ABC News: Matt Roberts)

The department also funded claims against two training company directors there at different times to Mr Crisafulli.

Southern Edge Training had operations from Victoria to Queensland, received government funding, and taught courses from forklift driving to hospitality training.

Financial documents indicate it had struggled for more than a year before Mr Crisafulli took over as sole director on December 1, 2015.

He resigned on April 1, 2016, with another Queensland man becoming sole director.

Southern Edge, which traded as SET Solutions, was then put into voluntary liquidation on June 30, 2016, owing more than \$3 million.

One creditor told the ABC that Mr Crisafulli had been a straight shooter during his time there and paid bills when promised.

The collapse's timing was raised briefly in 2017, but Mr Crisafulli told parliament in 2018 he had not cut and run despite a promised capital injection not eventuating.



Mr Crisafulli told parliament he left the company "without a single mark of wrongdoing" against him. (ABC News)

He maintained he had worked to bring in new revenue, new ownership and streamlined costs, all while never taking pay himself.

"I left the business without a single mark of wrongdoing against my conduct or actions," he said then.

Accounting expert questions whether profitability statement shows full picture

[Last month, the ABC revealed](#) that a year later, PwC liquidators Robert Ditrich and Craig Crosbie issued a creditors report alleging their

investigations "indicate the company appears to have traded while insolvent from at least December 1, 2015".

The liquidators cited evidence including the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) sending a \$112,576 legal demand and work-in-progress assets — representing the value of yet-to-be completed works on company books — being in their view "overstated and uncollectable" from January 2016.



Australian Taxation Office evidence was cited by the liquidators. (AAP: Alan Porritt)

The liquidators declined to comment last month if they had pursued any specific claims, saying they no longer had records access.

Since the ABC's report, Mr Crisafulli has responded to questions in media conferences about the 2019 liquidator investigations by referring to his earlier 2018 statements.

His 2018 statements included the training business having "returned a profit each and every month" he had been there.

Dr Nicole Ang, from the University of NSW's School of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation, said Mr Crisafulli's statement about profitability was likely

"technically correct", but not the full picture.

That was due to factors including the liquidators' allegations about the company having potentially traded while insolvent and creditor payment times being stretched.

Dr Ang said it was unclear what measure of profitability Mr Crisafulli was referring to, but assumed it was likely accrual accounting profits, not cash.



Dr Nicole Ang is an accounting expert from the University of NSW. (Supplied: UNSW)

"At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how great your reported accounting profit is if you don't have the underlying cash inflow to support your operations," she said.

The liquidators' claim that assets were overstated would also have meant profits should have been reduced, given those assets should have been written down, she said.

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Posted Fri 16 Aug 2024 at 5:36am, updated Fri 16 Aug 2024 at 2:03pm



Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Ph: 61 7 355 36610

email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.parliament.qld.gov.au/ethics

Ref: A1384803

11 December 2024

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Laurie

Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024

I refer to the matter referred by the Registrar to the Ethics Committee (the committee) on 28 November 2024 under section 14(3) of schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.

The material before the committee alleges that the member for Broadwater and Premier, Hon David Crisafulli MP failed to register payments made in relation to a company, Southern Edge Training, as a liability as required by Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.

The elements to establish this contempt are:

1. Was there a requirement to disclose the interest under Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders?
2. If yes, has the non-disclosure resulted in a contempt? (i.e. did the Premier knowingly fail to disclose?)

As part of its consideration of the matter, the committee is seeking further information from you.

The committee would appreciate any advice you may have provided the Premier about the disclosure of these matters on his statement of interests.

The committee would be grateful if you could provide your advice by **COB Wednesday 8 January 2025**, if not earlier.

Should you have any queries regarding these matters or require further information, please contact our Committee Secretary, Ms Erin Hastie (email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au; telephone: 3553 6610).

Yours sincerely

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair



Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Ph: 61 7 355 36610

email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.parliament.qld.gov.au/ethics

Ref: A1384802

12 December 2024

Hon David Crisafulli MP
Premier and Minister for Veterans
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Premier

Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024

I refer to the matter referred by the Registrar to the Ethics Committee (the committee) on 28 November 2024 under section 14(3) of schedule 2 of the Standing Orders. A copy of the referral dated 28 November 2024 is enclosed for your information.

The material before the committee alleges that you failed to register payments made in relation to a company, Southern Edge Training, as a liability as required by Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.

For your information, section 37 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA) defines the meaning of 'contempt' of the Assembly as follows—

- (1) *"Contempt" of the Assembly means a breach or disobedience of the powers, rights or immunities, or a contempt, of the Assembly or its members or committees.*
- (2) *Conduct, including words, is not contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with—*
 - (a) *the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or*
 - (b) *the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member.*

Section 37 of the POQA also provides that failing to comply with section 69B(1), (2) or (4) of the POQA is an example of contempt of Parliament.

Section 69B of the POQA provides:

- (1) *A member must, within 1 month after taking the member's seat, give to the registrar (a) a statement of interest, as at the date of election, of the member; and (b) a statement of the interest, as at the date of the election, of which the member is aware of each person who is a related person of the member.*
- (2) *A member must, within 1 month after becoming aware of a change in particulars contained in the last statement of interests given by the member, notify the registrar in writing of the change.*
- ...
- (4) *A member must not give to the registrar a statement of interests or information relating to a statement of interests the member knows is false or misleading in a material particular.*

Section 18 of Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders sets out the requirements for a finding of contempt:

A member who—

- (a) *knowingly fails to give a statement of interests to the Register as required*

(b) knowingly fails to notify the Registrar of a change of details contained in a statement of interest; or
(c) breaches s 69B(4) of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001,
is guilty of a contempt of the Parliament and may be dealt with accordingly.

The elements to establish this contempt are:

1. Was there a requirement to disclose your interest under Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders?
2. If yes, has the non-disclosure resulted in a contempt (i.e. did you knowingly fail to disclose?)

At this stage, the committee has not made any determinations in relation to the matter and is seeking further information from you and providing you with the opportunity to be heard in accordance with s 15 of Schedule 2 to the Standing Orders.

The committee has established procedures for dealing with privileges references, which ensure procedural fairness and natural justice is afforded to all parties. These procedures are set out in Chapters 44 and 45 of the Standing Orders. The committee also observes the instructions to committees regarding witnesses contained in Schedule 3 to the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders can be read [here](#).

Please note that Standing Order 211B(1) prohibits disclosure of the committee's proceedings, which includes this correspondence:

The proceedings of the Ethics Committee or a subcommittee of that committee on a matter before the Committee that is not open to the public or authorised to be published remains strictly confidential to the committee until the committee has reported to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

In order to maintain confidentiality, please ensure all correspondence is directed to the Ethics Committee email address and does not include your ministerial or electorate office staff.

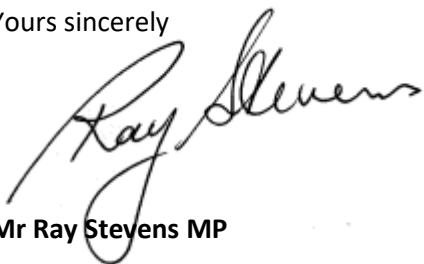
Standing Order 211B does not prevent you from seeking legal advice in relation to the matter. However, your legal representative will also be bound by the same confidentiality requirement.

For your information, Standing Order 211B(3)(b) provides that when the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter the committee shall at the same timetable any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter, unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential.

Should you wish to provide a submission to the committee, please do so by **COB Wednesday 8 January 2025**.

Should you have any queries regarding these matters or require further information, please contact our Committee Secretary, Ms Erin Hastie (email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au; telephone: 3553 6610).

Yours sincerely



Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair

Enc.



Premier and Minister for Veterans

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Ref: A1384802

8 January 2025

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair, Parliamentary Ethics Committee
By email: Ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Stevens

Ray

Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2024.

The gravamen of the complaint is that certain payments made by me came within the meaning of the term “liability” in Schedule 2 to the Standing Orders (**Schedule**), a consequence of which was that I was required to disclose them in my statement of interests.

The term “liability” is defined, relevantly, to mean an “obligation that legally binds a member ... to settle a debt”. A payment does not, either at law, or on the basis of that definition, constitute a liability. Rather, a legal liability is satisfied when a payment is made in respect of it.

It follows that the referral is based on a misinterpretation of the definition of “liability” in the Schedule.

To the extent that it might be thought that there was a liability satisfied by any of the payments, I note that the payments were made in order to compromise certain statutory claims that a party was threatening to pursue by litigation, but which had not been established. “Liability” as it is defined in the Schedule does not extend to claims which have yet to be litigated and are not based on an accepted basis for a debt such as one arising in contract.

It follows that the payments were not made in satisfaction of any liability within the meaning of the Schedule.



Premier and Minister for Veterans

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Even if those submissions are not accepted, I would note that, as you point out in your letter, the Parliament's power to punish for contempt is limited by section 37 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*. Section 37(2) provides:

Conduct, including words, is not contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with—

- (a) the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or
- (b) the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member.

There is no allegation (nor could there be) that I engaged in conduct either intended to, or likely to amount to, improper interference with any other member's performance of his or her duties.

I have never intended improperly to interfere with the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions. Given the submissions that I have set out in this letter regarding the proper construction of the Schedule, even if the Committee were ultimately to reject them, it could hardly be said that the conduct in not disclosing the payments (or any briefly existent legal obligation) could be classified as "likely to amount to" such an interference.

Additionally, as you point out, section 18 of the Schedule requires that any failure in compliance with the requirement for a statement of interests must have been knowingly carried out. I deny having intended, at any point, to refrain from complying with my responsibilities under the Schedule; much less making a knowingly false statement in the course of such compliance.

For these reasons, I would respectfully urge that the Committee dismiss the complaint.

Yours sincerely

David Crisafulli
Premier and Minister for Veterans



Queensland Parliamentary Service

THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

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George Street Fax: +61 7 3553 6454
Brisbane Qld 4000
email: ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au
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Our Ref: A1406518

31 January 2025

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair
Ethics Committee

ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Stevens,

I refer to your letter of 11 December 2024, in relation to allegations that the Premier failed to comply with Schedule 2 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly in respect of payments made to a company, Southern Edge Training, as a liability as required by Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.

The committee has requested any advice I may have provided the Premier (as the Member for Broadwater at the relevant time) about the disclosure of these matters on his statement of interests.

The Premier was elected as the member for Broadwater in 2017 (the 55th Parliament).

New members received a comprehensive induction, including a detailed induction on the requirements of the registers of interest. Despite being a member for a second time, the Premier attended the relevant induction. The Register of Interests session of the new members' induction was held on 7 February 2018. The sign in sheet (attached) shows Mr Crisafulli's signed attendance.

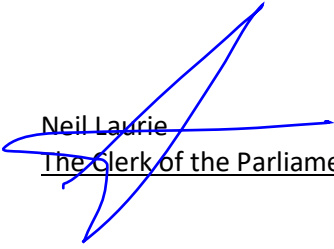
Prior to the 54th Parliament, whilst new members all received a detailed induction on the requirements of the registers of interest, a meeting with the Registrar whilst offered, was only taken up by some members. From the commencement of the 54th Parliament as Registrar, I began the practice of ensuring a meeting between myself and each new Member, to discuss their register of interest, prior to the time for their first declaration. Indeed, appointments for these meetings were generally arranged at the induction. My email records reveal that I met with the newly elected Member for Broadwater on Monday 5 March 2018 ("Accepted: Register of Interests - David Crisafulli, Broadwater").

I have no recollection of the matter of payments made to Southern Edge Training. In respect of a matter such as this, it would be normal practice to have the advice sought in a reasonably formal manner and responded to in writing. If it were a matter raised in our meeting, it would be normal practice to follow up the advice in writing. I have no records of any advice provided to the Premier in respect of Southern Edge Training.

In respect of whether the matter was a liability that required disclosure, my view on receipt of the complaint was that the committee would need to determine the circumstances that led to each payment

in the complaint and determine whether there was a legally binding obligation to settle a debt at any time that was outstanding.

Yours sincerely



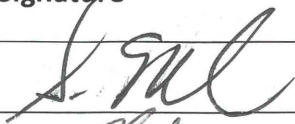
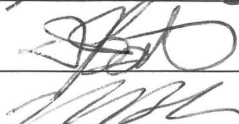
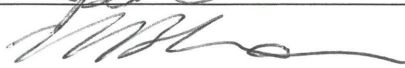

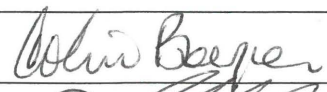












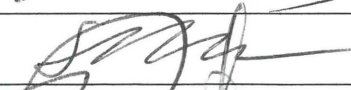

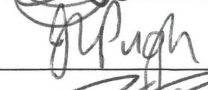



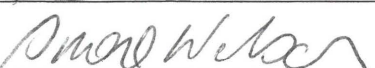
Neil Laurie

The Clerk of the Parliament

New Members Induction Program Session 29: Register of Members Interests

Wednesday 7 February 2018, 9.15 – 10.10.15 am

Undumbi Room, Parliamentary Annexe

| Name | Signature |
|------------------|--|
| Stephen Andrew |  |
| David Batt |  |
| Michael Berkman |  |
| Sandy Bolton |  |
| Colin Boyce |  |
| David Crisafulli |  |
| Nick Dametto |  |
| Michael Healy |  |
| Martin Hunt |  |
| James Lister |  |
| Cynthia Lui |  |
| Jim McDonald |  |
| Melissa McMahan |  |
| Corinne McMillan |  |
| Bart Mellish |  |
| Brent Mickelberg |  |
| Charis Mullen |  |
| Sam O'Connor |  |
| Barry O'Rourke |  |
| Jessica Pugh |  |
| Daniel Purdie |  |
| Kim Richards |  |
| Meaghan Scanlon |  |
| Simone Wilson |  |

9:20 am



Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Ph: 61 7 355 36610

email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.parliament.qld.gov.au/ethics

Ref: A1405244

19 February 2025

Hon David Crisafulli MP
Premier and Minister for Veterans
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Premier

Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024

I refer to the matter referred by the Registrar to the Ethics Committee (the committee) on 28 November 2024 under section 14(3) of schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.

The material before the committee alleges that you failed to register payments made in relation to a company, Southern Edge Training, as a liability as required by Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.

The committee notes your submission dated 8 January 2025. Based on the information provided, it is difficult for the committee to undertake a fulsome assessment of the matter.

To assist the committee to fulfil its obligations, the committee requests the following further information from you regarding the three payments made in March 2020, July 2020 and July 2021. Specifically:

1. Who sent the letter of demand to you threatening litigation?
2. Who did you make the payments to?
3. Was there a payment schedule put in place?
4. Any documentation regarding the payments including copies of:
 - a. letters of demand
 - b. correspondence between parties, and
 - c. any signed agreements between parties.
5. Did you seek advice from any person in relation to a potential obligation to disclose the matter under the Standing Orders, and if so, copies of such advice?
6. Any other information that may be relevant to the committee's consideration of this matter.

Standing Order 211B does not prevent you from seeking legal advice in relation to the matter. However, your legal representative will also be bound by the same confidentiality requirement.

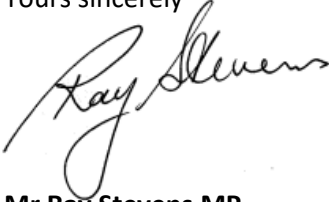
For your information, Standing Order 211B(3)(b) provides that when the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter the committee shall at the same timetable any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter, unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential if valid grounds exist. Such grounds include:

- publication of the proceedings is not in the public interest
- publication of the proceedings would be procedurally unfair to any person, or
- publication of the proceedings is irrelevant to the matter.

The committee would appreciate your further response by **COB Wednesday 5 March 2025**.

Should you have any queries regarding these matters or require further information, please contact our Committee Secretary, Ms Erin Hastie (email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au; telephone: 3553 6610).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Stevens', written in a cursive style.

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair



Premier and Minister for Veterans

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05 March 2025

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair
Ethics Committee
By email : ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

Ray and committee

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 February 2025, I appreciate the opportunity to provide further information.

First of all, I would like to provide some context to the situation which may be helpful to **The Committee** in understanding my actions.

I was requested to join SET solutions to assist in reviving the company. I agreed to this on the basis there would be a capital injection. The company was clearly in trouble, but I believed it was salvageable with the capital injection. I worked continuously to get the affairs of SET solutions in order, including ensuring creditors accrued in my time were paid. I also did not take a pay cheque the entire time I was there. Finally, when after 4 months the capital injection had not materialised, I left the company.

Over my life, I have had wins and losses and I have learnt from both. It is clear to me now, the decision to join the company was a mistake, but one I learned from. I would like **The Committee** to consider I was with SET Solutions for four months of a company that was almost two decades old.

The settlement was reached with PWC liquidators, and this was also the entity which received the payments. The payments were made with the joint understanding of no admission of liability and no findings made against me.

In relation to **The Committee's** query about the payments, I can confirm the payments and the timeframe were as a result of a single settlement. The reason I did not think there was a liability was it was a Settlement where I agreed to relinquish my claim, the Liquidators agreed there were no allegations against me and there was no admission of Liability.


In my previous correspondence with **The Committee**, which I have attached, I outlined all the legal reasons, why I believed there was no Liability to declare. In this response I have attempted to explain where my mind was at when I formed the judgement there was no liability to declare.

While I did receive legal counsel, in hindsight, it is clear to me I should have consulted with the Clerk on this matter.

If **The committee** decides I should have declared a liability, I can only apologise and assure **The Committee** it was an honest mistake and by no means deliberate or knowing.

Once again, thank you for the chance to offer further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Crisafulli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon David Crisafulli MP
Premier and Minister for Veterans



Premier and Minister for Veterans

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Ref: A1384802

8 January 2025

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair, Parliamentary Ethics Committee
By email: Ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Stevens

Ray

Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2024.

The gravamen of the complaint is that certain payments made by me came within the meaning of the term “liability” in Schedule 2 to the Standing Orders (**Schedule**), a consequence of which was that I was required to disclose them in my statement of interests.

The term “liability” is defined, relevantly, to mean an “obligation that legally binds a member ... to settle a debt”. A payment does not, either at law, or on the basis of that definition, constitute a liability. Rather, a legal liability is satisfied when a payment is made in respect of it.

It follows that the referral is based on a misinterpretation of the definition of “liability” in the Schedule.

To the extent that it might be thought that there was a liability satisfied by any of the payments, I note that the payments were made in order to compromise certain statutory claims that a party was threatening to pursue by litigation, but which had not been established. “Liability” as it is defined in the Schedule does not extend to claims which have yet to be litigated and are not based on an accepted basis for a debt such as one arising in contract.

It follows that the payments were not made in satisfaction of any liability within the meaning of the Schedule.



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Even if those submissions are not accepted, I would note that, as you point out in your letter, the Parliament's power to punish for contempt is limited by section 37 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*. Section 37(2) provides:

Conduct, including words, is not contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with—

- (a) the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or
- (b) the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member.

There is no allegation (nor could there be) that I engaged in conduct either intended to, or likely to amount to, improper interference with any other member's performance of his or her duties.

I have never intended improperly to interfere with the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions. Given the submissions that I have set out in this letter regarding the proper construction of the Schedule, even if the Committee were ultimately to reject them, it could hardly be said that the conduct in not disclosing the payments (or any briefly existent legal obligation) could be classified as "likely to amount to" such an interference.

Additionally, as you point out, section 18 of the Schedule requires that any failure in compliance with the requirement for a statement of interests must have been knowingly carried out. I deny having intended, at any point, to refrain from complying with my responsibilities under the Schedule; much less making a knowingly false statement in the course of such compliance.

For these reasons, I would respectfully urge that the Committee dismiss the complaint.

Yours sincerely

David Crisafulli
Premier and Minister for Veterans



Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee

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Ref: A1436773

3 April 2025

Hon David Crisafulli MP
Premier and Minister for Veterans
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Premier

Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 28 November 2024

I refer to the matter referred by the Registrar to the Ethics Committee (the committee) on 28 November 2024 under section 14(3) of schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.

The material before the committee alleges that you failed to register payments made in relation to a company, Southern Edge Training, as a liability as required by Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.

The committee notes your further submission dated 5 March 2025.

The committee requests a copy of any agreement or any relevant documentation relating to the settlement.

In addition, the committee notes that you stated you had received legal advice that supports your position that you did not have a liability to be declared on the Register of Interests. To assist the committee, the committee invites you to provide a copy of this advice.

The committee also invites you to attend a private hearing of the committee, under oath, pursuant to Standing Order 270(1)(c)(i). Should you wish to attend a private hearing please advise the secretariat.

Standing Order 211B does not prevent you from seeking legal advice in relation to the matter. However, your legal representative will also be bound by the same confidentiality requirement.

For your information, Standing Order 211B(3)(b) provides that when the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter the committee shall, at the same time, table any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter, unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential if valid grounds exist. Such grounds include:

- publication of the proceedings is not in the public interest
- publication of the proceedings would be procedurally unfair to any person, or
- publication of the proceedings is irrelevant to the matter.

The committee would appreciate your further response by **COB Wednesday 16 April 2025**.

Should you have any queries regarding these matters or require further information, please contact our Committee Secretary, Ms Erin Hastie (email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au; telephone: 3553 6610).

Yours sincerely

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair



Premier and Minister for Veterans

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16 April 2025

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair, Parliamentary Ethics Committee
By email: Ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Stevens and Committee Members

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 April 2025 seeking further information.

I am happy to provide further information but first seek to correct an assertion of the Committee in the above mentioned correspondence where it was stated I said I had “received legal advice that supports your position that you did not have a liability to be declared on the Register of Interests.” The statement I made was “While I did receive legal counsel, in hindsight, it is clear to me I should have consulted with the Clerk on this matter.”

I never claimed to have received written legal advice. Furthermore, I acknowledged, that in hindsight, I should have asked the expert in this matter, the Clerk of the Parliament.

In relation to the Committee’s request for documentation of the settlement agreement, I have attached the Deed of Settlement and Release. I ask the Committee to note the Deed of Settlement and Release contains a confidentiality clause.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In my first submission, I pointed out that for a finding of contempt, it must be shown that not only was there a liability to be declared - which I dispute - but it must also be shown the failure to declare was knowingly done. I believe the totality of my submissions show beyond doubt a firm and reasonable basis for my belief there was no liability to declare and that my public statements are consistent with the attached Deed. I once again acknowledge that, in hindsight, I should have sought the advice of the Clerk. I will also repeat my previous statement that if the Committee decides I should have declared a liability, I can only apologise and assure the Committee it was an honest mistake and by no means deliberate or knowing.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to provide another submission and trust the Committee can now come to a decision on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Crisafulli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Honourable David Crisafulli MP
Premier and Minister for Veterans