



Julie Bishop & Partners

26 August 2019

Ann Palmer
Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Dear Ms Ann Palmer

Thank you for your letter dated 19 August 2019 in which you invite me to make a written submission by 26 August 2019 to the Senate Inquiry into *Compliance by former Ministers of State with the requirements of the Prime Minister's Statement of Ministerial Standards*.

This letter forms that submission.

With respect to the Terms of Reference, I have no knowledge of items 1. (b) – (h).

In responding to items 1. (a) and 2. (a), I make the following points:

- I resigned as Minister for Foreign Affairs on 26 August 2018.
- I have not served in nor have I attended any meetings of the Morrison Government Cabinet.
- A new Budget was handed down on 2 April 2019.

The conditions relevant to former Ministers in the Statement of Ministerial Standards are contained in items 2.25 and 2.26.

I remain in compliance with both items in that I have not sought nor do I intend (within 18 months of my Ministerial resignation) to *lobby, advocate or have business meetings with members of the government, parliament, public service or defence force*¹ on any matter for which I held Ministerial responsibility.

Further, I have given an undertaking that I will not *take personal advantage of information to which I had access as a Minister, where that information is not generally available to the public*².

My personal conduct since retiring from the Cabinet and the Parliament meets the requirement to be *consistent with the dignity, reputation and integrity of the Parliament*³.

¹ Statement of Ministerial Standards, August 2018, p. 8.

² *ibid.*, p. 8.

³ *ibid.*, p. 8.

With respect to the Terms of Reference item 2. (b) *any related matters*, I take this opportunity to suggest an amendment to the current Statement of Ministerial Standards to make them more workable and enforceable.

The onus could and arguably should be placed upon current serving officials to not hold meetings with former Ministers for the period of 18 months after those Ministers cease to hold office.

Current Ministers and Government officials are subject to ongoing scrutiny through the Parliament, including Question Time and Senate Estimates, and by the media.

There is obvious redress available with regard to current serving Ministers and officials, should they breach this protocol.

Yours sincerely

Hon Julie Bishop