

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

2 April 2023

Governor-General Amendment (Cessation of Allowances in the Public Interest) Bill 2023

Dear Committee

I thank Senator Shoebridge for introducing this vital bill to the Senate and fully support the reform. There should be bi-partisan support for the reform.

Survivors contacted Peter Hollingworth many years ago and politely asked him to voluntarily choose to not take receipt of the ongoing Governor General payments. After all, even though the legislation says the government will pay it, there is nothing compelling an ethical person to keep receiving it, particularly someone who does not deserve it due to their conduct.

Mr Hollingworth could have written to the Prime Minister's Office and advised that he no longer wished to receive the payments (including high rise office space etc) or he could have repaid the money back to the tax payer. The tax payer needs it for more pressing expenses including health care for children or victims of clergy abuse which would be a much better use of the money rather than fattening Mr Hollingworth's already expansive property and share portfolio.

Instead of doing this, the public record shows that Mr Hollingworth has chosen to keep receiving the cash hand outs from the tax payer as long as the Government is silly enough to keep paying him. Many millions of dollars now.

Mr Hollingworth did not respond politely to the survivors who contacted him. Instead he got his *criminal defence lawyer* to write them an adversarial letter. Why does a former Governor General have a *criminal* defence lawyer? His response was not becoming of a senior public figure and it was not consistent with his public claims to care about victims of abuse.

So that the Committee can be satisfied as to the veracity of the above, I can provide copies of the correspondences to the Committee upon request. I ask that this submission be published so others may be aware of it

Yours faithfully