

**Report concerning an
application from
Professor David Flint for the
publication of a response to a
reference made in the House
of Representatives**

House of Representatives
Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests

August 2008
Canberra



Membership of the Committee

Chair Mr Brett Raguse MP

Deputy Chair Mr Wilson Tuckey MP

Members Mrs Joanna Gash MP

Mr Steve Georganas MP

Ms Jennie George MP (nominee of the Leader of the House)

Mr Petro Georgiou MP (nominee of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition)

Mr Daryl Melham MP

Hon Roger Price MP

Mr Don Randall MP

Hon Alex Somlyay MP

Mr Craig Thomson MP

Committee Secretariat

Secretary Mr David Elder

Research Officer Ms Claressa Surtees

Administrative Officer Ms Laura Gillies

- 1.1 Professor David Flint has made an application, under the procedure adopted by the House on 27 August 1997, for the publication of a response to references made about him in the House by Hon Lindsay Tanner MP on 13 February 2006.
- 1.2 Professor Flint's request was received during the election period and could not be dealt with until the formation of a Committee in the 42nd Parliament.
- 1.3 The Committee considers Professor Flint should be given a response and the terms of the response have been agreed by him and the Committee. A copy of the response is at Appendix 1.
- 1.4 In agreeing to the response, the Committee notes, as required by the resolution of the House for Rights of Reply, that it has not considered or judged the truth of any statements made by Members in the House or by the person seeking a response.
- 1.5 The Committee recommends that a response by Professor Flint (at Appendix 1) to references made about him in the House on 13 February 2006 be incorporated in Hansard.



MR BRETT RAGUSE MP
Chair
August 2008

Appendix 1

On 13 February 2006, Mr Lindsay Tanner MP, the Member for Melbourne, alleged that Australian's for Constitutional Monarchy (ACM) had "engaged in a brazen tax scam" and that the association between ACM and the Constitution Education Fund Australia (CEF-A) was a "fraud on Australian taxpayers". He offered no evidence nor had he contacted either ACM or CEF-A beforehand. However he urged ACM "to make use of their right of reply in parliament" to provide an explanation of the circumstances.

In referring to me as the national convenor of ACM, there was an implication that the allegations Mr Tanner made applied to me in a way that adversely affected my reputation.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) conducted a comprehensive and lengthy audit of CEF-A, and substantial costs were involved in satisfying the requests of the ATO. The audit resulted in no finding of any breach of the tax laws. Although requested, Mr Tanner has not withdrawn his allegation.