

729-1171.



**Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Anna Burke MP**

The Hon John Murphy MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
Suite R1.38  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your letter of 31 October 2012, inviting my response to a petition presented to the House, from the National Council of Women of Australia expressing concern about standards of behaviour in the House.

As Speaker, I have strongly advocated high standards of behaviour of members at all times. I have written to the Chief Whips of all parties, to the Member for Melbourne and to the non-aligned members, so that the terms of the petition can be provided to all members. I have also taken the opportunity to restate my commitment to high standards of behaviour of members of the House. In addition, I have commended to members a discussion paper of the House Standing Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests of 23 November 2011, *Draft Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament*, for their further information and guidance.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

✓  
ANNA BURKE  
Speaker

(Your ref: 729/1171)

