

Dear Committee,

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the inquiry. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with a statement regarding the events that led to the unsolicited proposal to provide our P&C with funds for the public record.

At the time I was the P&C President of our local primary school. Our sustainability sub committee were keen to add solar panels to our existing panels by way of the Solar My School grant, which required the P&C to contribute \$20,000. However, the P&C decided to replace the schools broken play equipment, so we could install inclusive play equipment. As a P&C we decided to keep looking for other grant opportunities for solar panels.

I am also a member, and current Vice President, of our local high school P&C of which Philipa Scott was the President at the time. Philipa organised and Chaired a P&C Forum at Annandale neighbourhood centre on 13 February, 2023 (**see attached screenshot of Philipa's Facebook post and flyer at the time**). The Forum Panel was Prue Car, Amber Flohm, and Chaired by Philipa Scott. I attended the forum along with two other P&C members from our primary school's sustainability committee.

Towards the end of the forum, I had had my hand up for some time to ask a question about solar in schools, but wasn't chosen by the Chair. To get our question heard, I yelled out my question as the Chair was closing the meeting. I was asked to come to the front to ask Prue my question. After a matter of seconds Prue Car said she had to go. I was then introduced to Kieren Ash who said he could get more information on Prue's behalf. At the time, Kieren didn't say what his role was and I assumed he was Prue's assistant.

The two sustainability P&C parents and I spoke to Kieran asking what Labor's policy was regarding the state government funding items such as solar panels in schools so P&C didn't have to choose between solar panels and new play equipment.

Kieren said Labor doesn't have a policy on sustainability and it's too late to create a new policy. He then asked how much we needed. I said we needed \$20,000 so we could apply for the Solar My Schools grant. Kieran said they could give us \$20,000. I asked where from. Kieren told us "We have been given money for things like this". He then said Philipa would need to be able to come to our P&C meeting to speak to our members. Kieren then said he would be in touch and emailed me that same night. **See email attached.** It is evident in the attached emails, I asked on behalf of the P&C for written details of how the \$20,000 funding commitment. Kieren said it was 'Labor's Local Community Grants (LCG) Program and would be in addition to the Community Building Partnership Grant. I then asked for more information on the LCG as I was concerned how we could be pre-selected for a grant before lodging an application. I then contacted

Kobi Shetty to ask if she had access to a similar grant fund as I was only aware of the Community Building Partnership grant. Kobi said she didn't.

I spoke to our P&C Executive providing them with the information from Kerien and we decided we would wait for any grants to become public and would not accept request from political candidates to address our P&C. I emailed Kerien to decline the 'grant' funding, which appeared to be contingent on Philipa addressing our P&C general meeting and a photo opportunity. Keiren's final email to me after we declined was *"I'm not sure I understand what you are saying. Are you able to call to explain why this P&C can't accept grant funding? P&Cs regularly accept grant funding from a range of sources and for many projects. I'm not sure I've understood your email."* I then received numerous phone calls from Kieren, which I didn't answer. Up until this point, only the P&C Executive and School Principal knew about the request and offer of funds.

Following my email of 8 March to Kieren declining the offer, other members within the P&C said subsequently they were contacted by Kieren who apparently told them I refused to accept the funds. As a result, this information went beyond the P&C Executive and created a lot of talk amongst the school community and beyond. As such, the P&C Executive spoke to the matter at the next P&C meeting to clarify.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a statement. Let me know if you have any questions.

Zoi Flannery

From: [ZAG](#)
To: [PAWC](#)
Subject: Fwd: Philippa Scott visit to Leichhardt P&C
Date: Friday, 28 March 2025 9:08:12 AM
Attachments: [Zoi Flannery Statement - Unsolicited proposal.docx](#)

Hi Verity,

Please see my statement attached, email trail below, and attached facebook flyer, relevant to the inquiry. Let me know if you need anything else.

I am happy for all of this to be made public, but can you redacted my personal information (I have deleted my personal email below, but can you please double check that my personal information is not made public.

Call me today if you have questions or need to clarify.

Thanks,

Zoi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Philippa Scott**
Date: Wed, 8 Mar 2023 at 15:09
Subject: Re: Philippa Scott visit to Leichhardt P&C
To: XXXXXXXXX

Hi Zoi,

I'm not sure I understand what you are saying. Are you able to call to explain why this P&C can't accept grant funding? P&Cs regularly accept grant funding from a range of sources and for many projects. I'm not sure I've understood your email.

Thanks,
Kieren

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: XXXXXXXXX>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 3:00:03 PM
To: Philippa Scott
Subject: Re: Philippa Scott visit to Leichhardt P&C

Hi Kieran,

The P&C met and we are unable to accept grant funding before we have applied for the funding which is a competitive process. We understand we would need to apply and be assessed against the criteria along with other applicants, which we will do so when the grant becomes available should the P&C support submitting an application.

Thanks so much for your interest in our school community and should Pippa be elected we look forward to having further discussions on further grant funding opportunities.

Thanks, Zoi
LPS P&C President

On Wed, 15 Feb 2023 at 11:40, Philippa Scott

wrote:

Hi Zoi,

Just so I understand your email clearly, the invitation for Philippa to attend the P&C meeting and speak with the parent community about the projects they would like to have supported has been withdrawn?

I am keen to avoid any misunderstanding on our or the P&Cs behalf. I don't think I ever characterised her attendance on Monday as a "meet the candidates" type event. As you say, that would be inappropriate and I would agree. P&Cs should never be a political fora but an opportunity for parents to advocate to their local representatives and the bureaucracy about the issues affecting their school community.

It remains important that Philippa is able to consult with affected stakeholders about the policy commitments she is advocating to the Opposition on - in this instance, changes to school solar funding policy in the event of a change of government.

Again, I am keen to stress this was never a "meet the candidates" event I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about this - you have my number, I am free to take your call at anytime.

Thanks,
Kieren

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: XXXXXXXXXX

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:27

To: Philippa Scott

Subject: Re: Philippa Scott visit to Leichhardt P&C

Hi Kieren,

I have spoken to the P&C Exec and School Principal about the \$20,000 commitment and Pippa attending the Monday meeting. Our agenda for Monday has already gone out and we can't add anymore items. Our agenda is pretty full being our first meeting for the year and the Principal has a lot of updates, and we finish promptly at 8pm. As you can appreciate, I need to follow due process.

At the meeting on Monday, I will ask the P&C about inviting candidates to a future P&C meeting. The P&C Exec would like to invite all candidates as P&C's aren't politically aligned as you can appreciate. In the meantime, I can send communications out to LPS P&C encouraging people to attend the Meet the Candidates forum across the road at Leichhardt Townhall on 9 March, so they can be informed of policy commitments for funding installation of solar in schools.

Thanks, Zoi

On Tue, 14 Feb 2023 at 13:39, Philippa Scott

wrote:

Hey Zoi,

In summary, the program runs exactly like the existing CBP process and will sit alongside that grants process. The scope of funding is the same and the requirements are, generally, the same as the CBP process. A proper contract and deed process would be entered into if Labor forms government.

To support this request, I require from you - (and we can workshop this together on the phone) brief information on the following

- What are we committing to?
- What is the scope of funding required (not the total amount for the project, but what you are asking from the Labor candidate - in this case, \$20,000 as agreed)
- What is the community benefit? IE how will the school community benefit (reduced power bills, reduced emissions, more resilient infrastructure etc etc)
- What evidence is there that this is supported by the community? IE motions from the P&C, petitions, letters, etc - any documentation

Thanks! looking forward to our phone chat. This is an exciting project.

Regards,

On Tue, 14 Feb 2023 at 12:23, XXXXXXXXXXXX> wrote:

Ah ok. Yep. Totally understand.

I just want to put some summary dot points together for the Exec. Chat after 4pm. Z

On Tue, 14 Feb 2023 at 12:17 pm, Philippa Scott wrote:

Hi Zoi,

I am free after 4. I can talk you through the process then. The information I have RE LGC is internal to the campaign but I am happy to explain it over the phone.

Thanks,
Kieren

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: XXXXXXXXXXXX

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 11:55:35 AM

To: Philippa Scott

Subject: Re: Philippa Scott visit to Leichhardt P&C

Hi Kieren,

I am in a workshop until 3pm today. Can I call you then? In the meantime, can you send me a link to read through for the LCG?

Zoi

On Tue, 14 Feb 2023 at 10:49 am, Philippa Scott wrote:

Hi Zoi,

Labor's Local Community Grants (LCG) program is based on the very successful Community Building Partnership (CBP) Grants. The funding is available **in addition** to the CBP Grants for 2023 (so we can come back later this year if Philippa is elected to bolster this funding commitment. You can use of course use the LCG funding as a co-contribution in your CBP application).

The LCG grant money is, of course, contingent on Labor forming government in NSW in March. I will have to get advice and confirm this, but I expect that LCG funding would be made available to successful applicants during the 2023-24 financial year.

Have just called to discuss - will need to get some details from you to lodge a commitment urgently.

Thanks,

On Tue, 14 Feb 2023 at 10:36, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX wrote:

Hi Kieren,

It was nice to meet with you to discuss our issues with providing solar to our school.

Confirming our P&C meeting starts promptly at 6:30pm. We will introduce Pippa straight after the meeting opens, so she doesn't have to sit through the whole meeting.

Can you provide a brief outline of the proposed funding agreement, so I can send it onto the Exec prior to the meeting please.

I mentioned the \$20,000 funding commitment last night to the P&C Exec, which will be in addition to any other grants we apply for, but I said we still had to work out timing. If you could provide more details so we can plan.

Thanks again,

Zoi

On Mon, 13 Feb 2023 at 20:54, Philippa Scott wrote:

Hi Zoi,

Thanks for tonight and I hope you found it worthwhile. Just confirming Philippa's visit to the P&C next Monday night at 630pm.

Looking forward to meeting with your membership for an exciting announcement about how we can support your school to reduce your power bills and emissions.

I will call tomorrow to talk through some of the logistics of the visit. Pip is really looking forward to it!

Thanks,
Kieren
Campaign Director

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Kieren Ash

Campaign Director

Labor for Balmain

Email:

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Kieren Ash

Campaign Director

Labor for Balmain

Philippa Scott · 8 h · 📷

Hi all - I'm hosting a P&C Forum with the Shadow Education Minister and Teachers Federation next Monday in Annandale. Partly generated by SSCL P&C's year long discussion about a mobile phone ban, but also to discuss secondary options in the inner west. Primary school topics also on the agenda!

P&C EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE

MONDAY 13 FEB, 5:00PM
ANNANDALE TOWN HALL
79 JOHNSTON ST, ANNANDALE

.....
You are invited to a free parent and teacher roundtable to discuss your views about education. You will also hear about:

- Proposed mobile phones ban for high schools
- School infrastructure funding
- Secondary school options in the city and inner west
- Teacher views on shortages, wages, conditions, and retention

HOSTED BY

SPECIAL GUESTS



Philippa Scott
SSC Leichhardt
P&C President



Prue Car MP
Shadow Minister
for Education



Amber Fiohn
NSW Teachers Fed.
Senior Vice-President

RSVP USING THE QR CODE

ENQUIRIES:

