

Answers to Supplementary Questions from Members

Mr Kieren Ash, 2023 Labor Campaign Manager, Balmain

1. How did the Labor for Balmain team organise its campaigning activities for the 2023 state election? How were important decisions made and recorded? How were actions agreed to and progressed?

The Balmain Labor campaign conducted its activities in accordance with the requirements of all relevant legislation.

2. Had information about the opportunity to distribute \$400,000 in project funding across your electorate been provided to your campaign team before Ms Scott hosted the public education forum in Leichhardt?

To the best of my recollection, yes.

3. Was the Leichhardt Public School's P&C Committee the first community organisation you discussed making an election commitment with?

I cannot recall.

4. Was the Leichhardt P&C the first community organisation you discussed committing a specific amount of money to for project funding?

I cannot recall.

5. Could you please clarify the circumstances in which the Labor for Balmain campaign team came to be in discussion with the Leichhardt Public School P&C Committee regarding a commitment for funding for a solar panels project?

Specifically:

- a) Who did the P&C Committee president speak to about their solar panels project at the education forum?
- b) Who did the P&C president provide their contact details to?
- c) What words were used to invite the Labor candidate to a P&C meeting to discuss the project?

I refer you to my evidence already provided to the Committee.

6. Were there other organisations who passed up the opportunity to receive money from the Labor campaign for Balmain in 2023?

No organisations were given the opportunity to receive money from the Labor campaign for Balmain in 2023.

7. Did the Labor for Balmain campaign make any further commitments to fund community projects after the Sydney Morning Herald article was published on March 14?

To the best of my recollection, all commitments had been made prior to March 15.

8. During the hearing you stated “Campaigns regularly communicate policy positions and announcements to campaign directors, so I would have received information from party officials”. Who were these party officials?

(a) What are their names?

I refer you to evidence already provided to the Committee.

9. You stated that the reason why you wanted to “explain” the grants program “over the phone” is because you are “averse to providing internal campaign documentation to third parties: people who are not part of the campaign”. What is this internal campaign documentation you are referring to?

I am averse to providing any and all internal campaign documentation to third parties.

10. Did any ‘internal campaign documentation’ exist regarding the grants scheme now known as the ‘Local Small Commitments Allocation’?

(a) If so, what did this material communicate?

(b) Do you have access to any such documentation, or material produced by “party officials” or the “campaign” regarding the grants scheme now known as the ‘Local Small Commitments Allocation’?

i. If so, would you please provide it for the reference of the committee?

I refer you to my evidence.

11. Ms Scott recalls there being “a process of probity checks” prior to the State election. Do you recall any such probity checks?

(a) If so, what details do you recall about them?

(b) Did the probity checks relate to the grants scheme now known as the ‘Local Small Commitments Allocation’?

I recall that probity checks were conducted in relation to the Local Small Commitments Allocation.

12. Were you ever required to complete a probity check as the campaign manager, or on Ms Scott's behalf?

(a) If so, what were you required to provide?

i. To whom were you required to provide it to?

To the best of my recollection, no.

13. Did you ever send an email to a member of Labor Head Office or the campaign regarding the grants scheme now known as the 'Local Small Commitments Allocation'?

(a) If so, what did you write in the email/s?

To the best of my recollection, I sent emails regarding the details of the local small commitments the Balmain Labor campaign made commitments to. These details included the identity of organisations and a suggested monetary quantum to commit.

14. Who was your contact if you ever had any questions regarding the details of the grants scheme now known as the 'Local Small Commitments Allocation'?

To the best of my recollection, Josh Wright.