



Lee Rhiannon MLC

Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales

Chair
Privileges Committee
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament of NSW

19th April 2006

Dear Chair,

Please accept this as a submission to the review of the Members' Code of Conduct.

The existing Code of Conduct covers many important issues, and has served us reasonably well. However in the period since the last review in 2002 some important developments have occurred, and I believe that it is appropriate at this time to consider consequent improvements to the Code.

In particular, the report of the Independent Commission Against Corruption titled "Regulation of secondary employment for Members of the NSW Legislative Assembly" includes key recommendations that are equally relevant to the Legislative Council. Recommendations 3 and 4 from that report are relevant to the wording of the Code, and I endorse them for adoption.

As regards the remaining relevant ICAC reports, I endorse recommendations 1 and 10 (a) from the report titled "Report on investigation into conduct of the Hon J. Richard Face", both of which go to the specific wording of the Code, and recommendation 5 from the report titled "Report on investigation into conduct of the Hon Peter Breen MLC", which is essentially the same as recommendation 3 from the "Regulation of secondary employment for Members of the NSW Legislative Assembly" report.

The remaining recommendations from all reports, whilst worthy, are probably not specifically relevant to this review.

In addition, I believe that the Code of Conduct ought to address the issue of free passes or admissions. I recommend the addition of a new sub-section to part 3 of the Code: "Members must not accept free admission to an event or facility for which an ordinary member of the public would have to pay, unless that event or facility is directly related to the responsibilities of the Member." In other words, the Minister for Arts would remain entitled to accept free admission to an art gallery event, as is only reasonable, but another Minister or a backbencher would probably not.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Rhiannon', written in a cursive style.

Lee Rhiannon MLC