

Matter involving the Member for Western Victoria Region and the Member for Warrandyte District

Investigation report

September 2025



Investigation report

Allegations

1. The Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Commission (the Commission) received a referral on 22 May 2025 with the following allegations:
 - on 20 May 2025 Mrs Beverley McArthur MLC brought a box purporting to contain animal excrement into the vicinity of the Premier's office at Parliament House
 - on 20 May 2025 Mrs Nicole Werner MLA facilitated the act of bringing a box purporting to contain animal excrement into the vicinity of the Premier's office at Parliament House.

Decision to investigate

2. The Members Code of Conduct requires members to foster a healthy, safe, respectful, and inclusive environment in the parliamentary workplace, free from bullying, sexual harassment, assault, and discrimination. The Code of Conduct was updated in 2024 with the intention of "bringing the Parliament into line with expectations of the standards of a modern workplace".¹
3. The Commission considered its jurisdiction to investigate breaches of the Code of Conduct and decided to investigate the matter under section 21(1) of the *Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Act 2024* (Vic) (PWSI Act).

Investigation process

4. In conducting the investigation, the Commission made requests for information and attendance at interview under sections 22 and 24 of the PWSI Act respectively.
5. Mrs McArthur and Mrs Werner cooperated fully with the Commission's investigation.
6. During the investigation the Commission became aware of a technical issue that may cause ambiguity with respect to the investigation request notices. While the requests were approved by a Commissioner, the request notices were issued by Commission staff.
7. Consequently, in the interests of transparency, fairness, and accountability, the Commission has decided not to consider the evidence collected through the original request notices.
8. The Commission has decided not to reissue the investigation requests for the following reasons:
 - repeating investigative interviews and evidence collection is not proportionate to the nature of the alleged conduct
 - the potential impact this might have on the subjects of the investigation
 - prolonging the investigation is not in the interests of any party.

¹ Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Bill 2024 Explanatory Memorandum

Findings

9. Based on the assessable evidence, the Commission makes no finding of parliamentary misconduct in relation to this matter.

Report tabling

10. The Commission considers that transmitting this investigation report to each House of Parliament is not contrary to the public interest. In reaching this position, the Commission has considered the preference of Mrs McArthur and Mrs Werner, both of whom indicated a preference that this report be tabled in Parliament.

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