

## **Tasmanian Integrity Commission - Complaint Dismissed**

**Ms WEBB** (Nelson) - Mr President, I would like to make a statement on adjournment.

On 18 March this year, I was informed by the Tasmanian Integrity Commission of its determination to dismiss a complaint against me, which the Integrity Commission had accepted for assessment under section 35(1)(B) of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* on 28 November last year. This complaint related to statements I made in the Legislative Council following the release of the final report of the Commission of Inquiry into Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings. I will not go into the details of the complaint out of respect for the complainant, who may not wish to be further publicly associated with the ongoing debate around the commission of inquiry's final report.

As a point of clarification, the first I knew of this complaint, or the Integrity Commission's assessment of it, was upon receipt of the Integrity Commission's determination to dismiss, dated 15 March, which I received via email on Monday 18 March. I mention this not as a criticism of the process undertaken but to reassure my constituency that I have not tried to hide in any way the fact this complaint process was underway.

The Legislative Council's first non-ceremonial sitting day of the new parliament, today, has provided the first opportunity for me to provide this update in a formal and accountable manner.

As I stated on the public record in the Legislative Council on 1 November last year, all elected representatives should be held accountable for their actions, including me. Further, while not taking lightly the steps I took in parliament, I have a responsibility to do my job, particularly in pursuing clarification of such serious matters as raised by the commission, no matter how uncomfortable that may be for all potentially involved, including me, while standing by the difficult decision made to raise serious questions based on specific content of a publicly tabled report.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the following. I did not make allegations against individuals or entities, but in the public interest call for clarity about how and why they were cited, as they were, in the notes section of the report. In light of the description of the commission of inquiry of the processes undertaken and constraints experienced, as I stated at the time, and reiterate now, those individuals deserve that clarity to be provided and independently verified as to all those who engaged with the commission, including victim/survivors.

It is shocking and a disgrace that eight months after these matters were raised, this necessary clarity, necessary for commission respondents, witnesses and victim/survivors has still been denied. I wish I could remove that cloud. Sadly, those responsible for that clarity - and in a position to provide it - refused to step up and be accountable. In the meantime, I have been held accountable for my actions.

I will continue to strive to be accountable while undertaking the difficult responsibilities of my job, as is right in our democratic system. Thank you.

**The Council adjourned at 6.08 p.m.**