

5 May 2023

**CONFIDENTIAL
NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

Sophia Willcocks
Central Land Council

By email: [REDACTED] [@clc.org.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@clc.org.au)

Dear Ms Willcocks,

Re: Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price – Central Land Council Media Release of 20 April 2023

We act for Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price.

Our client has provided to us a copy of the Central Land Council's Media Release dated 20 April 2023, published to your website <https://www.clc.org.au/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CentralLandCouncil>.

The Media Release remains available to download via your website and Facebook Page. The Media Release has had extensive readership through its promotion on social media, namely through Facebook and Twitter where it has been shared numerous times.

The Media Release appears to relate to our client's stance on the Aboriginal Voice to Parliament. The Media Release contains allegations of and concerning Senator Price which we consider to be false and highly defamatory of her.

The content of the Media Release raises serious allegations of and concerning our client which are not only patently false but also maliciously defamatory. You are therefore liable for the hurt and damage caused to our client and to her reputation by reason of the publication of the false and defamatory allegations.

In those circumstances our client will be entitled to substantial monetary damages and vindication as well as costs.

To be clear, the Media Release contains, *inter alia*, allegations to the effect that our client is:

- (a) a liar and a fraud who hurts Aboriginal people;
- (b) a liar and a fraud who neglects Aboriginal people;
- (c) a liar and a fraud who only associates with Canberra's elite;
- (d) a hypocrite who pretends to care for issues plaguing Aboriginal people;
- (e) a hypocrite who only associates with Canberra's elite whilst pretending to know about Aboriginal issues;
- (f) a vindictive and spiteful person who actively looks to extinguish Aboriginal organisations;
- (g) a vindictive and spiteful person who has a personal vendetta against the Central Land Council;
- (h) an uninformed, negligent person who hurts Aboriginal people;
- (i) an incompetent politician who does not deserve her position in the Senate;
- (j) an incompetent politician who is not fit to hold the office of Senator;
- (k) a callous politician who creates lies about Aboriginal people to advance her career.
- (l) a callous and selfish person, who divides Australia for the purpose of advancing her career;
- (m) a callous and selfish person who uses her position as a Senator to divide Australians;
- (n) a selfish person who misrepresents and neglects remote Aboriginal communities;
- (o) a self-appointed crusader who uses her position as Senator to divide Australia;
- (p) a self-appointed crusader who uses her position as Senator and her Aboriginal culture to hurt and misrepresent Aboriginal people;

This letter **does not** purport to be a Concerns Notice for the purposes of Part 3 of the *Defamation Act* 2005 (NSW) and its counterparts in the other States and Territories, nor does it set out all the possible imputations of concern. It is intended to bring to your attention the range and nature of the false and defamatory allegations you published in the Media Release, and to provide you with an opportunity to remedy the damage caused to our client, to retract the statements made, and to provide undertakings to refrain from continuing with this conduct.

The allegations are clearly conveyed by the Media Release which is completely unbalanced. This egregious failure to provide a fair and balanced narrative and to afford our client an opportunity to refute the allegations prior to publication has not only created an impression in the minds of readers that Senator Price is a callous, vindictive, divisive, negligent, fraud, that is a threat to the life and safety of Aboriginal men, women and children and more broadly the entire Australian population, but has also caused our client and her family great hurt, distress and embarrassment.

Your publication of the Media Release and republication on your social media accounts was unwarranted and will be relied on as evidence of your express malice towards our client. The Media Release is dripping with malice in circumstances where:

1. Your express motive was to damage Senator Price's reputation;
2. Your desire is to cause our client extreme hurt, embarrassment and damage to her career and reputation;
3. The timing of the Media Release in circumstances where she was elected as the Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians two days prior;
4. Your use of emotive and abusive descriptors such as "*hurting Aboriginal people*", "*continued attacks*", "*tell lies about us*" is designed to damage our client's reputation and to encourage the readers and media outlets such as the Guardian to further publish the allegations to the world at large.
5. Your statement that Senator Price "*is hurting Aboriginal people*" is designed to cause immense hurt to our client's feelings and to lower her in the estimation of others. Nothing could be more hurtful to an Aboriginal person who has been elected as an Aboriginal representative than to state that she is a threat to the safety and well-being of Aboriginal people.
6. The prominence by which the Media Release appears and is advertised on your website.
7. The wide dissemination of the Media Release on social media platforms where it remains available for download and republication which means that harm is likely to increase.
8. Your reckless indifference and/or wilful blindness as to the falsity of the allegations.

It beggars belief that you would publish these maliciously false and baseless allegations with such reckless indifference to the truth and to the likely damage that our client would suffer.

We are instructed therefore to request that you agree, **within 14 days** of the date of this letter:

1. To provide an undertaking to never publish or republish in future the Media Release or the allegations contained in the Media Release or any similar allegations;
2. To immediately take all steps to recall and remove the Media Release from your website, including from any other location where it is published or republished;
3. To provide the following apology and retraction by way of signed letter to our client, for her to publish as she sees fit:

"APOLOGY TO SENATOR JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE"

On or about 20 April 2023, the Central Land Council published a Media Release of and concerning Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price.

The Media Release contained a number of allegations that were false and defamatory. They should never have been published.

The Central Land Council did not have any basis to make the allegations against Senator Price and we retract those allegations wholeheartedly.

The Central Land Council unreservedly apologises to Senator Price for the hurt and distress caused to her by reason of the publication of the false allegations.”

Our client is extremely concerned by the loss and damage she is likely to suffer and will continue to suffer as a result of the publication of the Media Release. Senator Price therefore requires the immediate and unambiguous retraction and apology in order to ensure the timely and effective vindication of her reputation. Any failure to do so will no doubt give rise to a claim for substantial damages including aggravated damages in the event our client is obliged to take further action.

Our client reserves all her rights.

We await your urgent reply.

Yours faithfully
KALANTZIS Lawyers



BILL KALANTZIS
Principal