

Our ref: BBL:939

5 June 2025

Mr V Kalantzis
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Open Offer

By email: [REDACTED]@kallaw.com.au

Dear Colleagues

Lesley Turner v Jacinta Nampijinpa Price – Federal Court Proceedings No. NTD 17 of 2024

Both parties in this Federal Court litigation are individuals from Indigenous communities.

We had anticipated that the Respondent's refusal to make a settlement offer in these proceedings was because of the Federal election held in early May, in which the Respondent did not want to be seen as renegeing on her position. The election has since passed, and the Respondent should be approaching these proceedings rationally.

The fact is that the Respondent published to a large number of people, a defamatory publication which has caused harm to our client's professional reputation and resulted in him incurring significant hurt and embarrassment, something for which the Respondent has never expressed an apology.

Despite the Respondent initially pleading the defences of justification and honest opinion, alleging her publications to be true, on 27 March 2025, the Respondent withdrew those defences. It follows, that the Respondent must accept that she published untrue statements about our client - an individual who did not deserve that treatment from anyone, let alone a Senator of Parliament.

The Respondent's defences, which require her to prove reasonableness will fail for all the usual reasons that such defences do, but also because the Respondent failed to disclose in her publication her personal involvement in the Machiavellian attempt to remove our client from his position in concert with Mr Palmer and Mr Morris.

The Respondent knew prior to publication that the motion had not even been tabled, let alone passed. A fact she failed to disclose in her defamatory press release, just as she failed to disclose her own interest and involvement in the utterly hopeless attempt to remove our client from his position.

We do not understand the position the Respondent has taken in this litigation. We have not been provided with any information or documentation which supports her position that she can successfully defend these proceedings.

The trial listed in October will be costly for both parties. Our client's costs of the proceedings are likely to exceed \$500,000.00.

Offer of Settlement

In the circumstances, and having regard to the fact that there is always a gap in costs, irrespective of the outcome, our client makes the following offer to settle the proceedings:

1. Judgment in favour of the Applicant in the sum of \$60,000.00; and
2. The Respondent pay the Applicant's cost as agreed or taxed.

The offer is open for acceptance for seven days from the date of this letter.

We will be tendering this offer on the next occasion the matter is before the Court.

We reiterate that the amount sought by judgment is a good faith attempt on the part of the Applicant to resolve the dispute. It is not a genuine reflection of the damages sought should this matter proceed to trial.

Yours sincerely
BlackBay Lawyers



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