



PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 3

REPORT ON PERSONS REFERRED TO
IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

JOHN ELSEGOOD

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly
26 June 2003

REPORT

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly referred to the Procedure and Privileges Committee a letter from Mr John Elsegood seeking to use Standing Order 114 to respond to comments made on 21 August 2002 by the Attorney General, the Hon. Jim McGinty, MLA.

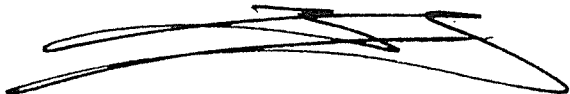
The Committee has agreed to the attached response proposed by Mr John Elsegood.

In accordance with Standing Order 114 the Committee has not considered or judged the truth of any statements made in the Legislative Assembly or in the submission.

Recommendation

Your Committee recommends –

That a response by Mr John Elsegood in the terms specified in the Appendix to this report, be incorporated in *Hansard*.



HON. FRED RIEBELING, MLA
CHAIRMAN TO THE COMMITTEE

APPENDIX

Response by Mr John Elsegood

Agreed to by Mr John Elsegood and the Procedure and Privileges Committee
Pursuant to Standing Order 114

Mr Speaker,

I respond to the inaccurate comments made about me by the Attorney General in the Legislative Assembly on 22 August 2002 and I request that my reply be incorporated in Hansard.

In particular the Attorney General has slurred me in his parliamentary remarks when he says, "starting to emerge is a bias against a range of citizens in the Merredin area such as Homeswest tenants, bikies, Aboriginals, refugees and a host of others".

When Mr McGinty quotes from my 'Broken Windows' story (**Wheatbelt Mercury** 16/1/02) he fails to mention that I was defending a single 'Homeswest' mother from being driven from her home and town by recalcitrant juvenile criminals.

As for bikies, my only 'crime' is to support the State Labor government's legislation; in respect to Aboriginals, Mr McGinty should again check his facts. I gave strong editorial support (and private sympathy) to a bereaved Aboriginal mother after some insensitive soul wrote a disgusting sign on a railway track where her son had died. I have also supported the concept of Aboriginal elders being incorporated into the justice system and I have actively been engaged in promoting the annual Aboriginal cultural festival in Kellerberrin, over the radio station that I manage - a fact that can be testified to by the organiser of the festival, Mick Cole, a former state and federal ALP candidate.

Further, I have also worked in African villages on a voluntary basis during my long service leave in 1986, leaving behind my wife, and then infant son, for 3 months.

When Mr McGinty talks about my attitude to refugees what a pity he didn't mention my published (and constant) support for Zimbabweans to be given succour and comfort in Australia: eg "*I would certainly support moves to provide safe haven to the farmers and farm hands of Zimbabwe. In other words I would support Australia helping the mainly white farmers and mainly black farm hands to be granted refuge*" (**Wheatbelt Mercury** 3/10/01).

However, I am also not going to be deterred from supporting the Federal government's attempt to prevent traffickers from capitalising on the misery of people by engaging in illegal entry manoeuvres.

The Attorney General also fails to give an accurate depiction of the stance of his Labor parliamentary colleague, Kim Chance, when he says, "Hon Kim Chance ... also raised this matter during the term of the previous government," Indeed he did, but *for me*, not against me, and Mr Chance has also supported me in government.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN ELSEGOOD

18 June 2003

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