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From: Skene, Kathleen [mailto:kathleen.skene@townsvillebulletin.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2011 3:30 PM
To: THWAITES, Kate
Subject: RE: Indigenous services in Townsville [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Kate,

My questions are below. We require a named source for attribution of all answers. Thanks for your help.

1. Is Ms Macklin, or anyone in her department, aware of any allegations of mismanagement in Townsville Indigenous organisations, specifically the Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Health Service [REDACTED] or any other local Indigenous organisation? If so, what are they?
2. What actions if any were taken by Ms Macklin and/her the department after former Herbert MP Peter Lindsay brought claims of nepotism in Townsville organisations to Federal Parliament in June 2008?
<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/refs/dailys/dr240608.pdf>
3. What actions if any were taken by Ms Macklin and/her the department after former Herbert MP Peter Lindsay brought claims of nepotism in Townsville organisations to her attention in a letter dated June 25, 2008?
4. What investigations or inquiries have been made to assist local indigenous organisations in proving or disproving widespread claims of financial mismanagement, bullying and fraud on their boards?
5. Some of these organisations are Aboriginal Corporations, under the jurisdiction of the Corporations Act (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 2006, and some, like TAIHS, are companies under the jurisdiction of ASIC. Former staff of the organisations claim that money is moved between the groups (by shared board members) whenever one of the organisations is audited, making detection of any anomalies unlikely. Will the Minister seek a co-ordinated and concurrent investigation into the operations of all the above organisations in an effort to ensure public resources are being effectively used?
6. Why/why not?

Regards,

Kathleen Skene | Journalist

Townsville Bulletin

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x

From: THWAITES, Kate [mailto:Kate.THWAITES@fahcsia.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2011 1:22 PM
To: Skene, Kathleen
Cc: BELL, Keely
Subject: RE: Indigenous services in Townsville [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Kathleen,

I'm one of Minister Macklin's media advisers – Sandi has passed your inquiry onto me.

The Minister is currently overseas and so not available for interview.

Can you please send me specific questions you'd like answered and I can get you a response.

26/08/2011

What is your deadline?

Kind regards,

Kate

Kate Thwaites
Media Adviser
Jenny Macklin MP
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs
t. 02 6277 7560

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From: Skene, Kathleen [mailto:kathleen.skene@townsvillebulletin.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2011 11:17 AM
To: GATT, Sandi
Subject: Indigenous services in Townsville

Hi Sandi,

I would like to make a time to speak to Ms Macklin at her earliest convenience about serious and long-running claims of mismanagement in some of Townsville's Indigenous organisations.

By way of background, the organisations involved all share board members and directors, who are composed largely of members of one local family.

Former Federal Member for Herbert Peter Lindsay mentioned this issue before the House of Representatives on June 24, 2008 <http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/rep/dailys/dr240608.pdf> and wrote to Ms Macklin the following day requesting an open and detailed inquiry into the administration of four Townsville-based organisations. Current MP for Herbert Ewen Jones claims the office never received a reply to this letter or the parliamentary mention.

There have been numerous claims from the community, including former doctors and other staff of these organisations, of bullying and the misappropriation of funds and resources, which, they claim, have lead to reduced services for the significant and disadvantaged Aboriginal and Islander community in North Queensland.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this important issue with Ms Macklin soon.

Thanks for your time.

Regards,

Kathleen Skene | Journalist

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26/08/2011

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