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Dear Auditor-General

Urgent Review: Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program

I thank you for your letter of 8 September 2026 confirming that the Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program (MLCIP) and the Supporting Multicultural Communities Program (SMCP) will be added as topics to the ANAO's Annual Audit Work Program for 2026-27.

Unfortunately, media reporting subsequent to your letter just yesterday demands a new urgency with which the MLCIP must be audited.

What has been reported

On 9 September 2026, a national media outlet reported that the Prime Minister held an honorary membership of Marrickville Golf Club which had not been disclosed on his Register of Members' Interests. Records of his interests dating back to his election in 1996 do not disclose either a paid or honorary membership of the club.

The club confirmed to the media that Mr Albanese was an honorary member, with the membership reportedly believed to date back approximately 15 years. Mr Albanese has since claimed that he did not know that he was an honorary member.

However, the Prime Minister's association with the club is longstanding and well documented.

In 2019, while campaigning against a proposal to reduce the size of the golf course, Mr Albanese told club members: "I declare an interest ... I have been coming here for decades and using this club." Separately, while being filmed walking on the lawns outside the Marrickville Golf Club, Anthony Albanese said "I used to, when I was in Marrickville, walk Toto there."

More significantly, it has now been reported that Marrickville Golf Club approached Mr Albanese's electorate office after the club was returned to the electorate of Grayndler following the October 2024 redistribution.

The club said it dealt with the Prime Minister's office rather than Mr Albanese directly at this time. Its spokesperson recalled being advised by the office that "there is money available" and being asked what ideas or needs the club had. The club subsequently provided the Prime Minister's Office with a presentation outlining its proposals.

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The following year, during the 2025 Federal Election campaign, the Prime Minister personally announced that the club would receive Commonwealth funding.

Marrickville Golf Club was subsequently awarded \$6.05 million for a redevelopment including renovations to its clubhouse, outdoor dining facilities, sewerage and stormwater works, accessibility improvements and landscaping.

Importantly, it was the only golf club to receive funding under the Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program in the entire country.

These facts demand an urgent investigation.

Why these matters are now urgent

It is now a matter of public record that an organisation of which the Prime Minister held an undisclosed honorary membership, approached his electorate office seeking funding. His office discussed the availability of Commonwealth funding with that organisation. The club was then selected for an invitation-only closed Commonwealth grants program and awarded more than \$6 million of taxpayers' money.

These circumstances raise serious questions about the integrity of the MLCIP and the direct involvement of the Prime Minister personally.

Given these questions now involve the Prime Minister directly, I believe that it is in the national interest for the ANAO to prioritise any investigation into these aspects of the program, because at their most serious, these circumstances raise questions that perhaps only the National Anti-Corruption Commission could answer.

The ANAO should determine whether the events around the Prime Minister's personal involvement in the Marrickville Golf Club were entirely coincidental, or whether the Prime Minister's membership, his longstanding relationship with the club, and/or the access afforded to the club through his office influenced the decision to provide the club with Commonwealth funding.

Other relevant considerations

On January 22, 2020, then-Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese told Adelaide's 5AA Radio:

HOST: Just before we let you go, Albo. Fairfax newspapers are reporting this morning that Federal Cabinet Minister Bridget McKenzie approved the \$36,000 taxpayer funded grant for a shooting club in regional Victoria without publicly declaring that she was actually a member of the club. Do you think that the Prime Minister is going to continue to stand by her?

ALBANESE: She's got to go. This is just red hot. This is just a roort. It fails the pub test. It fails every test.

Anthony Albanese set his own test and he has failed it.

Anthony Albanese called for a Coalition Cabinet Minister to be sacked for failing to disclose a \$36,000 grant to a club to which the Minister held an honorary membership, yet is pretending

that he has not failed the same test despite awarding a grant 167 times larger to the Marrickville Golf Club.

As Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese has also established a Code of Conduct for Ministers which stipulates responsibilities held by ministers for the identification and declaration of their private interests. This is the standard, or test, the Prime Minister has set. In holding an undeclared honorary membership of a club, which has received Commonwealth funding, it appears the obligations of the Code have not been complied with.

On these grounds, and in light of the apparent failure to meet his own test of proper conduct in high office, I submit the circumstances warrant a most urgent review of the MLCIP by the Auditor-General.

Noting the heightened public interest in this matter, I respectfully urge reprioritisation of this matter and would appreciate your earliest confirmation of the same.

Should we be of assistance to you in furthering your inquiries in relation to these explosive revelations, please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



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9 September 2026