



**Shadow Attorney-General  
Shadow Minister for National Security  
Federal Member for Isaacs**

Mr Grant Hehir  
Auditor-General  
Australian National Audit Office  
GPO Box 707  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

**By email only: [grant.hehir@anao.gov.au](mailto:grant.hehir@anao.gov.au)**

26 March 2019

Dear Mr Hehir

I refer to your letter dated 21 March 2019 in relation to my request that the Australian National Audit Office undertake an audit into the circumstances surrounding Georgina Downer's presentation of a cheque to the Yankalilla Bowling Club. That cheque, which bore an image of Ms Downer's face and Liberal Party branding, related to a grant awarded under the government's Community Sport Infrastructure Program.

The cheque presentation by Ms Downer, who is the unelected Liberal candidate for Mayo, took place before the elected local Member of Parliament, Ms Rebekha Sharkie, had even been notified that the Club's grant application had been successful.

I note that you have decided to conduct a performance audit of the award of funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Program.

At the time of writing that letter, I understood that incident to be an isolated example of the Liberal Party using a taxpayer-funded grant as if it were a campaign contribution to promote an unelected Liberal candidate.

However, since then, I have also learned that the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (\$1.3 billion), which is administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, the Community Sport Infrastructure program (\$60 million) and the Building Better Regions Fund (\$641.6 million) are being advertised on social media as Nationals Party cash. Collectively, those programs are worth over \$2 billion. Enclosed with this letter are the relevant advertisements.

Moreover, numerous other specific examples of taxpayer-funded grants being "announced" by unelected Liberal and National Party candidates, reminiscent of the Georgina Downer episode, have also come to light. For example:

- On 5 March 2019, Ms Cathy McGowan AO MP drew your attention to the fact that the unelected National Party candidate for Indi, Mr Mark Byatt, had "announced" \$3.4 million worth of Commonwealth grants from Round 3 of the Building Better Regions Fund alongside Regional Services Minister, Senator Bridget McKenzie – before Ms McGowan had received formal notification that the grants had been awarded. Most egregiously, successful grant applicants to the Building Better Regions Fund were apparently advised by Senator Bridget McKenzie's office that they should not tell Ms McGowan – their

elected representative – that their grant applications had been successful (presumably to enable the unelected local candidate, Mr Byatt, to make the announcement). I understand that the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science bears ultimate responsibility for administering that grant program, while the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities is the relevant Commonwealth policy entity. As you would be aware, Ms McGowan has referred this matter to you for consideration.

- It was reported in *The Age* newspaper on 10 March 2019 (*Coalition accused of pork-barrelling grants in marginal seats*) that the unelected Liberal candidate for Hindmarsh, Jake Hall-Evans, presented a “letter of notification” to the Semaphore Bowling Club which informed the club that it had been awarded a \$65,000 grant. I understand that, as with the grant “announced” by Georgina Downer, that grant was awarded under Round 2 of the Community Sport Infrastructure Grants program.
- In the same story in *The Age*, it was reported that Kathy Ganley, the unelected Country Liberals candidate for Solomon, had been tasked with advising applicants to the Fostering Integration Grant program that their applications for taxpayer funded grants had been successful. It is not clear why Ms Ganley was told about the successful grant applications before the elected local MP, Luke Gosling – let alone why she was the person who first notified successful applicants. I understand that the Department of Home Affairs bears ultimate responsibility for administering that grant program.

In each of the examples cited above, unelected Liberal and National Party candidates were given an opportunity – and perhaps even encouraged – to “announce” taxpayer funded grants to successful applicants before elected local MPs had even been notified by the relevant department or minister. This is despite the fact that, in a number of cases, elected local MPs had worked closely with grant applicants to support their applications.

The story in *The Age* cites numerous other examples this happening.

In light of the above, in addition to undertaking the performance audit of the Community Sport Infrastructure Program, which I understand has already commenced, I also request that you conduct a performance audit of:

- Round 3 of the Building Better Regions Fund; and
- the Fostering Integration Grant program.

I also ask that your investigation extend to the conduct of:

- Peter Dutton MP and David Coleman MP (as the Ministers responsible for the Department of Home Affairs, which administers the Fostering Integration Grant program);
- Michael McCormack MP (as the Minister responsible for the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, the policy entity responsible for the Building Better Regions Fund); and
- Senator Matt Canavan and Karen Andrews MP (as the Ministers responsible for the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, which administers Round 3 of the Building Better Regions Fund).

These grants should not be treated as campaign contributions to, or as gifts from, the Liberal and National Parties. The Australian people should know how it is that unelected Liberal and National Party candidates have been – and apparently continue to be – allowed to “announce” taxpayer funded grants to successful applicants before elected local MPs have even been notified of successful grant applications by relevant departments or ministers.

I have copied this correspondence to the Secretaries of the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. I ask Mr Pezzullo, Dr Kennedy and Dr Smith to treat this correspondence as if it were personally addressed to them.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Dreyfus', written in a cursive style.

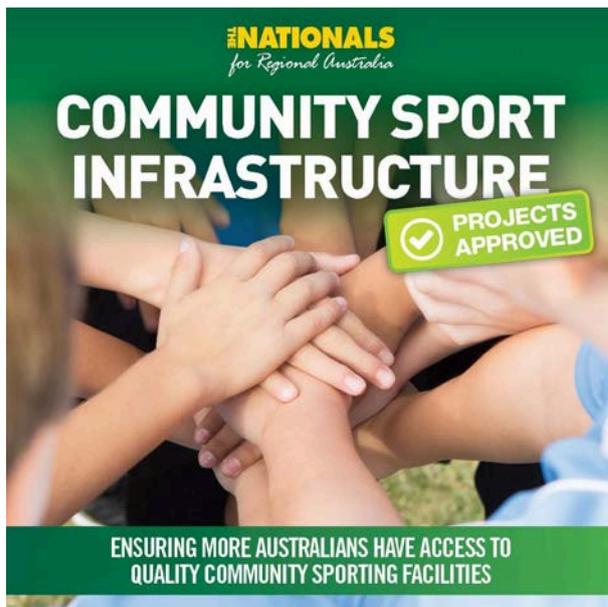
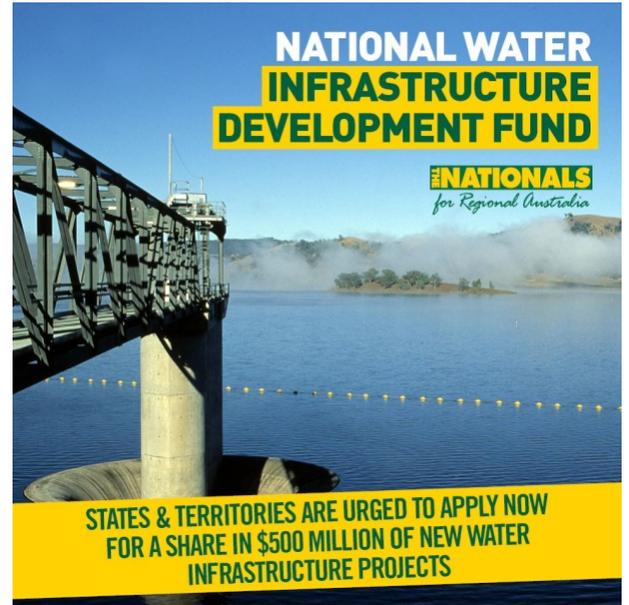
Mark Dreyfus QC MP

cc: Mr Michael Pezzullo, Dr Steven Kennedy and Dr Heather Smith PSM

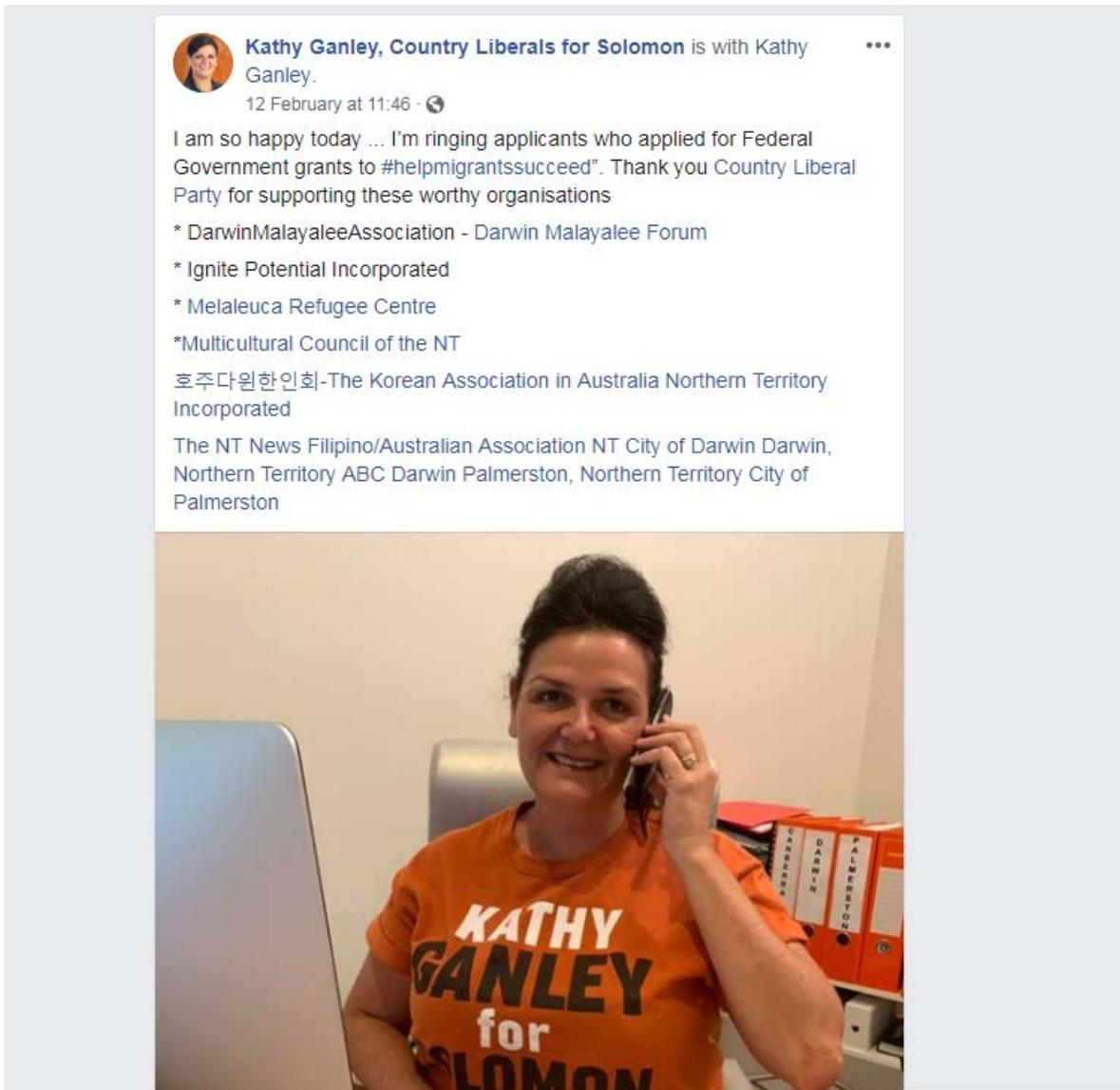
Attached:

- National Party advertising on Facebook
- Facebook post by Kathy Ganley
- Semaphore Bowling Club Newsletter

National Party Advertising on Social Media



## Facebook post by Kathy Ganley



A screenshot of a Facebook post by Kathy Ganley, a member of the Country Liberals for Solomon. The post is dated 12 February at 11:46 and is marked as public. The text of the post expresses her happiness and gratitude for receiving Federal Government grants to support various organizations. She lists several organizations, including Darwin Malayalee Association, Ignite Potential Incorporated, Melaleuca Refugee Centre, Multicultural Council of the NT, and others. Below the text is a photograph of Kathy Ganley sitting at a desk, smiling, and talking on a mobile phone. She is wearing an orange t-shirt with the text "KATHY GANLEY for SOLOMON" printed on it. In the background, there are orange binders on a shelf.

**Kathy Ganley, Country Liberals for Solomon** is with Kathy Ganley. ...

12 February at 11:46 · 🌐

I am so happy today ... I'm ringing applicants who applied for Federal Government grants to #helpmigrantssucceed". Thank you Country Liberal Party for supporting these worthy organisations

- \* DarwinMalayaleeAssociation - Darwin Malayalee Forum
- \* Ignite Potential Incorporated
- \* Melaleuca Refugee Centre
- \*Multicultural Council of the NT

호주다원한인회-The Korean Association in Australia Northern Territory Incorporated

The NT News Filipino/Australian Association NT City of Darwin Darwin, Northern Territory ABC Darwin Palmerston, Northern Territory City of Palmerston



## **Newsletter of the Semaphore Bowling Club**

# THE SEMAPHORE SIGNAL

A Newsletter for Members

August 2019 - # 039 Feb/Mar

Cnr. Woolnough Rd & Wills St; Largs Bay 08 8449 6337 [office@semaphorebowlingclub.com.au](mailto:office@semaphorebowlingclub.com.au)



## SPONSORS –

**The Semaphore Bakehouse** – have once again committed to continuing sponsorship, through Scoreboard and Bar signs and donating bread for our Tuesday and Thursday Night Owl events. Thank you, Terry. The club was approached with an offer to sponsor our Club, with an over the Bar sign. **David Wilkins** is a **Councillor for Semaphore Ward** [City of Port Adelaide Enfield], and importantly a Night Owl player, we thank him for his support.

**As usual, please support them whenever possible.**

## TAYLOR CUP Bronze Division North / played at 6pm Sunday evenings

The full eight rounds [including a bye] have been completed against clubs from West Lakes, Prospect/Broadview, Tranmere, Hope Valley, Adelaide Salisbury and Kensington/Marryatville. The triples played against Salisbury in round 8, were the only winners. The team were tied at 17/17 with an additional end played to decide the winner [as ties are not allowed]. They prevailed by winning 18 shots to 17, after the extra end. Although one of our least successful seasons in the challenge, it has however been keenly contested by the members who took part. Other members are encouraged to take part next season, usually starting in October.

## Ladies Gala Day 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019

Kerri Scharkie, Anne Dunstan and Janice Donnell are to be congratulated for organizing a very successful event, together with the many helpers both on the day [and Sunday] in food preparation, serving and running trading tables and raffles.

Twenty-six [26] teams [including Semaphore] took part in the day from a broad range of clubs from the suburbs and country regions, including the following.

Morphet Vale, West Lakes, Aldinga, Wallaroo, Uraidla, Tranmere, Ascot Park, Playford, Lockleys, Brighton, Prospect/Broadview, Blackwood, Gawler, Victor Harbor, Holdfast Bay, Renmark RSL, Modbury, McLaren Vale, Jamestown, Henley and Lyndoch. Thank you to all those clubs for supporting this annual event. We thank each of those clubs for their support.



Marketing coordinator **Jo McLaren** for **Phil Hoffmann Travel** attended along with **Simone Ryan** [Semaphores Travel Consultant] who presented winners with prizes.

As always you are asked to support our sponsors when making travel bookings.

The winning team on 107 points were Brighton, skippered by Liz Allan, in second place Semaphore, skippered by Louise Sumner, with 83 points. Third on a count back [both on 81 points] were the team led by Louise Sortino from Blackwood, followed by the Renmark



RSL team.

The pairs event winners from the first game, were Kaye Skuse skipper from Gawler, with the second game winners were led by Val Secombe from Victor Harbor.

Simone Ryan Phil Hoffmann Semaphore Office, presenting the winning Brighton team, led by Liz Allan.

Thanks Andrew & June Farmer -photographers

## ALLSTATE PEST CONTROL

Bob Jane  
T Mart  
Alberton



Cartridge  
World  
Pt. Adelaide

Drifast Carpet  
Cleaners

Birkenhead  
Tavern

DAVE BENSON  
CARAVANS

Port Anchor  
Hotel

JD's Bower  
Road Meat  
Store



Second placed team from Semaphore, skippered by Louise Sumner

Third placed team from Blackwood, skippered by Louise Sortino



### SUCCESSFUL FEDERAL SPORTS GRANT -for CLUB UP-GRADE

Through the Board of Management, Maurice Corcoran is to be thanked for his tremendous effort in preparing the submission for the grant. Thanks immensely Maurice.

The grant of \$65000 was brought to the attention of the Club on Friday afternoon 22<sup>nd</sup> February, when Jake Hall-Evans [Liberal Candidate for Hindmarsh] attended the Club to present the letter of notification. The application is for monies to support the installation of two glass automatic entrance doors; upgrade of kitchen cupboards; new female/male lockers with doors and upgrading of Boardroom cupboards. Should there be any left-over money, suggestions will be taken for ideas, written and lodged into the suggestion box.

### COMING EVENTS

#### ECS Meldrum Semaphore BC play Police BC

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March an Open gender event. Add names to list  
\$20 includes lunch 9.30 for 10am start

**Port District Football Club Bonding Day** - A social event for them, starting approx. mid-day Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**Social Club bowls** on the same day [long weekend] 12 for 12.30pm start

**Country Carnival events** - held at SBC from Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, Tues 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. There will be Mens and Ladies events in singles, pairs and fours.

Markers will be required. Add name to list when available.

#### 2019 Annual Operation K9 Lawn Bowling Challenge

A fundraising event supporting service people. Combined with Largs Bay RSL.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 9am for 9.30am start. Cost \$100 / team – includes 2 course lunch

**AGM and Presentation Night** – dates to be advised

**SUSAN CLOSE  
MP**



**Semaphore  
Bakehouse**



**C & H Vecchio  
Plumbers**

**SIMPLICITY  
FUNERALS**

**Semaphore  
Health Shop**

**Ultra-Tune  
Pt. Adelaide**