



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

29 NOV 2012

Mr Greg Hywood
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director
Fairfax Media
1 Darling Island Road
PYRMONT NSW 2009

Dear Mr Hywood

Claims made in reports published in Fairfax publications today about my dealings with the West Australian Commission of Corporate Affairs in 1992 concerning the Australian Workers Union Workplace Reform Association (the Association) are false.

These reports are published under the byline of Mark Baker and variously titled "Letter contradicts PM: Gillard said fund had no union links", "Gillard letter said fund had no union links" and "Document contradicts fund claims".

The reports draw on the content of my interview with senior partners at Slater and Gordon on 11 September 1995 published for the first time today.

There are three elements in the reports that mislead your readers.

First, the reports claim I "wrote to the WA Corporate Affairs Commission stating the fund, the Australian Workplace Reform Association, had no union links."

This repeats the false claim I had a role in the establishment of a "fund" operated by the Association.

Over many years, including in the interview on 11 September 1995, I have made it very clear I had no role whatsoever in the establishment or operation of the Association's bank accounts.

Second, the assertions I advised the WA Corporate Affairs Commission that the Association "had no union links" is not substantiated by the transcript.

In fact, in the interview, reference was made to correspondence from the Commission which suggested the Association "might be a trade union and therefore ineligible for incorporation under that legislation".

The interview transcript contains reference to a response I prepared, acting on client instructions, noting that the body proposed for incorporation was not a trade union. This fact is demonstrably true.

Third, today your reports claim:

A spokesman for the Prime Minister had "no comment" when asked to confirm whether or not she had written to the WA Corporate Affairs Commission.

My office provided the following comment to your reporter at 5.49pm yesterday afternoon, following repeated – and unanswered – requests for the production of the letter subject to his request for comment:

*Comments from a spokesperson for the Prime Minister:
Given your recent history of publishing unsubstantiated claims on this matter, and having afterwards to correct them, it's a pity your newspaper is again considering publishing allegations you can't substantiate.*

The reported "no comment" contained in your publications today is false and misleading.

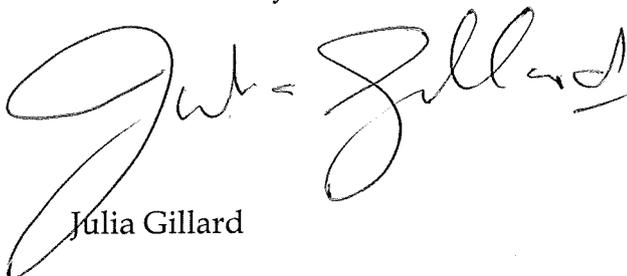
Finally, the unredacted transcript supports my account of these events over the past two decades.

The transcript supports my account that I had nothing to do with the Association once it was incorporated.

The transcript also supports my account that I had nothing to do with setting up bank accounts operated by the Association.

Given the grievous misrepresentations in your reporting, and the importance that these matters be corrected on the public record, I propose to release this correspondence.

Yours sincerely



Julia Gillard