Jodeen Carney
Shadow Attorney-General,
Shadow Minister for Justice, and Women's Policy

Attorney's bizarre claims an attempt to weasel out of 'reckless disregard for the law'

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Shadow Attorney-General, Jodeen Carney, has slammed claims made by Peter Toyne that she had a 'vested interest' in claims she made about the inexplicable release of personnel files of two public servants for use in a legal action against the Government.

“The claims are a desperate attempt by the Justice Minister to deflect attention from the gravity of what his Government has done,” Ms Carney said.

“Lawyers for the public servants referred to the files being released as a ‘breach of the law’ and a ‘reckless disregard for the law’. That's the issue the Government needs to respond to, and the Attorney should start an inquiry rather than trying to deflect attention.

“I have never acted in any legal capacity, as Dr Toyne claims, for the two public servants whose files were released. I don't even know one of them.”

Ms Carney said prior to entering politics, she acted for the plaintiff in the case, but “I did not, and have never acted for the public servants whose files were handed over.”

“The Attorney seems to be absurdly implying that I cannot raise this very serious matter because I acted for the Plaintiff years ago. This is bizarre, and a pathetic attempt to weasel out of being held accountable for the release of public servants files”, Ms. Carney said.

She said that the Attorney has shown his complete ignorance of the facts by suggesting that nothing was wrong in the way the files were obtained.

“The Attorney obviously has not read the 100 pages of transcript in the Supreme Court. Had he bothered to do so, he would have discovered that the court was not required to rule on whether the files were obtained improperly by lawyers representing the Government,” Ms Carney said.

“The issue before the Court was whether the subsequent issuing of subpoenas was an abuse of process, and the Court ruled that it was not.”

Ms. Carney understands that the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment and the Information Commissioner have commenced investigations into this matter, and said that the Attorney-General should do the same.

“If Dr. Toyne is going to comment on matters he knows nothing about, he should at least make an attempt to get the facts right before he opens his mouth”, she said.
She said that it was becoming increasingly clear that Dr. Toyne is unable to manage two of the largest portfolios, Health and Justice.

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