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CLP slanders expert Professor

Children and Families Minister Kon Vatskalis today called on the CLP Member for Araluen to apologise to eminent child protection expert Professor Graham Vimpani and the 8 members of the Child Protection External Monitoring Committee for slanderous comments made in Parliament last night.

Robyn Lambley has accused Professor Vimpani of sanitising his report as a result of being “wined and dined” by Government.

Professor Vimpani is the Head of the Discipline of Paediatrics and Professor of Community Child Health at the John Hunter Children’s Hospital in NSW, and is recognised nationally for his work in this field.

Under the cover of parliamentary privilege Ms Lambley last night said:

“That is the theme of this 30 page report of the External Monitoring and Reporting Committee for Child Protection. It is all very positive, it is all sanitised, and it is completely and utterly deceptive. What we have is a committee that is costing the taxpayers of Australia much money presumably. We have eight people being carted around the country, eight people being wined and dined…”

Mr Vatskalis said these accusations of sanitising a report as a result of being “wined and dined” were serious allegations.

“The Member for Araluen is accusing Professor Vimpani of academic corruption,” Mr Vatskalis said. “She hid behind parliamentary privilege to slander Professor Vimpani.

“She should either back up her allegations outside parliament or immediately withdraw them and apologise unreservedly.

“If not, Terry Mills should show some leadership and apologise on behalf of the CLP. But we know he won’t because he needs her vote to see off the new Dave Tollner challenge.

“These slanderous allegations give an insight as to how the CLP would behave in Government – slander anyone whose opinion doesn’t suit them.”

The first independent report into the progress of the reforms of the Territory’s child protection system was released yesterday and found the reforms are on track.

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