

Scott Whitby

From: Alexandra Foley
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 1:41 PM
To: Scott Whitby
Cc: Kate Barwick
Subject: FW: Ministerial staff turn over

Hi Scott,

Please see below.

Thanks,
Ally

From: Killoran, Matthew [mailto:matthew.killoran@news.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 1:07 PM
To: Alexandra Foley
Subject: Ministerial staff turn over

Hi Ali,

Thanks for your time on the phone today. As I mentioned, I would like to ask Ms Stuckey some questions in relation to more staff movement in her office.

In particular I would like to know:


- 1 – What was the reason for senior media advisor Peter McCarthy leaving Ms Stuckey's office?
- 2 – If it is part of a rotation, why is the former person who held that position (Lynnette Keep) not returning to that position, but heading to Minister Powell's office, as you stated on the phone?
- 3 – Is there a rotation policy in place specifically for Ms Stuckey's office, and not for other Minister's? If so why?
- 4 – Is the Minister concerned with the high level of turn over within her office? Why does she think this is the case?
- 5 – I understand this makes at least 10 staff who have left her office, for a variety of reasons include one having their contract terminated, retirement, and transfer to other office. Would she like to comment on this?
- 6 – Will Mr McCarthy be replaced? If so will it be through another rotation or will the position be advertised or filled by another means?

Thanks for your help. Any questions or problems please give me a buzz on S.73 Telephone N

Cheers,

Matthew Killoran
Reporter
Gold Coast Publications Pty Ltd
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Scott Whitby

From: Kate Barwick
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 1:47 PM
To: Alexandra Foley; Scott Whitby
Subject: RE: Ministerial staff turn over

Thanks Ally – he rang me as well to get the Premier's thoughts. I'm waiting for his questions in writing before we get back to him. Will keep you in the loop



Kate Barwick
Senior Media Adviser
Office of the Hon. Campbell Newman MP | Premier of Queensland
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From: Alexandra Foley
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 1:41 PM
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Cc: Kate Barwick
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Please see below.

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- 1 – What was the reason for senior media advisor Peter McCarthy leaving Ms Stuckey's office?
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Cheers,

Matthew Killoran


Reporter

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Scott Whitby

From: Kate Barwick
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 1:59 PM
To: Scott Whitby
Subject: Questions from Bully: Staff movement's in Minister Stuckey's office



Kate Barwick
Senior Media Adviser
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From: Killoran, Matthew [mailto:matthew.killoran@news.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 1:48 PM
To: Kate Barwick
Subject: Staff movement's in Minister Stuckey's office

Hi Kate,

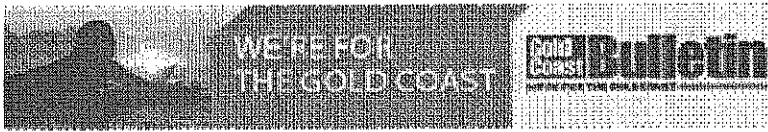
Thanks for your time on the phone. As I mentioned, I'm putting together an article in relation to more staff movement's within Minister Jann Stuckey's office. Her senior media advisor Peter McCarthy has returned to Minister Elmes' office from where he was transferred. I understand there has been at least 10 staff members leave Ms Stuckey's office for a variety of reasons.

- 1 – Is the Premier concerned with the level of staff turnover at the Minister's office?
- 2 – Has he spoken to her in relation to this? Have any measures been put in place to deal with this? If so, what are they?
- 3 – Has a policy or practice of rotating staff in and out of her office been put in place? If so, why?
- 4 – Is the practice of rotating staff and/or media used in other Ministerial offices? If so, which ones and why do many other Minister have media staff in place more consistently?
- 5 - According to Ms Stuckey's office, Mr McCarthy has returned to Mr Elmes' office, but her former media advisor Lynette Keep has transferred to Minister Powell's office, not back to Ms Stuckey's office. If it was a rotation between the two offices, why is Ms Keep not returning?
- 6 – There is currently no replacement for Mr McCarthy? Will there be a replacement for Mr McCarthy and if so will this be done through rotation, or advertising a new position or another means?

If you have any questions or problems, please give me a buzz on S.73 Telephone I.

Cheers,

Matthew Killoran
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Scott Whitby

From: Alexandra Foley
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 2:19 PM
To: Kate Barwick
Cc: Scott Whitby
Subject: FW: Minister Stuckey Comments

Hi Kate,

This is what we sent to the GC Bulletin last time.

Thanks,
Ally

From: Peter McCarthy
Sent: Friday, 25 January 2013 3:32 PM
To: 'lucy.ardern@news.com.au'
Subject: Minister Stuckey Comments

Lucy,

Below are comments from Minister Stuckey in response to your queries about staffing...

=====

“Lyn Keep is currently on annual leave, and will return to work for Minister Glen Elmes as part of a normal inter-office rotation program.

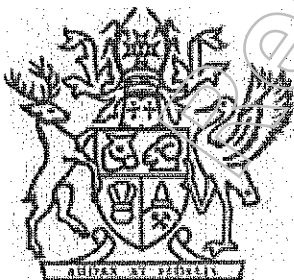
“Staff changes have been a result of a number of factors, including retirement, overseas employment opportunities, wanting to work closer to home and ordinary staff rotation.

“These circumstances are common in most workplaces.

“Political offices are dynamic and challenging environments to work in, and don’t suit everyone.”

=====

Cheers



Peter McCarthy
Senior Media Advisor
Office of the Hon. Jann Stuckey MP
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games
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Scott Whitby

From: Kate Barwick
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 2:40 PM
To: Scott Whitby
Cc: Lee Anderson
Subject: FW: Minister Stuckey Comments

This is what Stuckey said last time these questions were raised



Kate Barwick
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From: Alexandra Foley
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 2:19 PM
To: Kate Barwick
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“Staff changes have been a result of a number of factors, including retirement, overseas employment opportunities, wanting to work closer to home and ordinary staff rotation.

“These circumstances are common in most workplaces.

“Political offices are dynamic and challenging environments to work in, and don’t suit everyone.”

Cheers



Peter McCarthy
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Scott Whitby

From: Scott Whitby
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 3:05 PM
To: Alexandra Foley; Kate Barwick; Aaron Wakeley; Lee Anderson
Subject: Draft response to Matt Killoran's questions

Hi guys

Draft suggestions below. Tried to echo the same language that was used the last time the Bully ran a story on this.

Scott

Tourism Minister's office response

1 – What was the reason for senior media advisor Peter McCarthy leaving Ms Stuckey's office?

Mr McCarthy has returned to Minister Elmes' office.

2 – If it is part of a rotation, why is the former person who held that position (Lynnette Keep) not returning to that position, but heading to Minister Powell's office, as you stated on the phone?

Ms Keep has been appointed to fill a vacancy that arose in Minister Powell's office.

3 – Is there a rotation policy in place specifically for Ms Stuckey's office, and not for other Minister's? If so why?

No.

4 – Is the Minister concerned with the high level of turn over within her office? Why does she think this is the case?

No. Staff changes have been a result of a number of factors, including retirement, overseas employment opportunities, wanting to work closer to home and ordinary staff rotation.

These circumstances are common in most workplaces.

5 – I understand this makes at least 10 staff who have left her office, for a variety of reasons include one having their contract terminated, retirement, and transfer to other office. Would she like to comment on this?

See above comment.

6 – Will Mr McCarthy be replaced? If so will it be through another rotation or will the position be advertised or filled by another means?

A new media adviser is in the process of being appointed.

A spokesperson for the Premier said:

"Political offices are dynamic and challenging environments to work in and don't suit everyone.

"As such, it is not uncommon for a number of staff to come and go from Ministerial offices. (OPTIONAL EXTRA – "just as it is not uncommon for a number of staff to come and go from media outlets" or something like that)

"For example, in the last 12 months of the Bligh Government, seven staff left the former Labor Environment Ministers' offices and eight staff departed the former Labor Employment Minister's office.

"The practice of rotating staff has been used in a number of offices since the LNP Government came to power, including from the Premier's office, the Environment Minister's office, and the Health Minister's office, to name but a few examples.

"This ensures advisers get experience in a broad range of portfolios right across Government.

"In relation to Ms Keep, she has been appointed to fill a vacancy in the Environment Minister's office while the Tourism Minister's office is in the process of appointing a new media adviser."



Scott Whitby

Deputy Director

Government Media Unit

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Scott Whitby

From: Kate Barwick
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 4:24 PM
To: Scott Whitby
Subject: further questions from GC Bulletin

I know how I'd like to respond, but I think you're probably more diplomatic. Any suggestions?



Kate Barwick
Senior Media Adviser
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From: Killoran, Matthew [<mailto:matthew.killoran@news.com.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 3:49 PM
To: Kate Barwick
Subject: RE: response to query

Hi Kate,

Thanks for the quick response. Could you clarify a few things? Is it accurate to say that the practice of staff rotation is used in Ms Stuckey's office? Can you confirm that the Premier, or the appropriate people in his office, has spoken to Ms Stuckey in relation to the high turnover of staff from her office?

Cheers,

Matt Killoran

From: Kate Barwick [<mailto:Kate.Barwick@ministerial.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 3:18 PM
To: Killoran, Matthew
Subject: response to query

Hi Matt, good talking to you before. Please find below comment from a spokesperson for the Premier:

"Political offices are dynamic and challenging environments to work in and don't suit everyone.

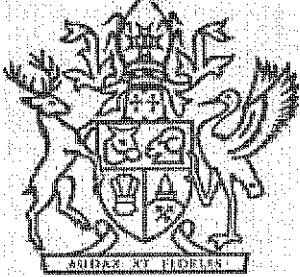
"As such, it is not uncommon for a number of staff to come and go from Ministerial offices, just as it is not uncommon for staff to come and go from any other workplace.

"For example, in the last 12 months of the Bligh Government, seven staff left the former Labor Environment Ministers' offices and eight staff departed the former Labor Employment Minister's office.

"The practice of rotating staff has been used in a number of offices since the LNP Government came to power, including from the Premier's office, the Environment Minister's office, and the Health Minister's office, to name but a few examples.

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Scott Whitby

From: Scott Whitby
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 4:30 PM
To: Kate Barwick
Subject: RE: further questions from GC Bulletin

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

As noted in the original response, staff rotations occur across a range of offices, not just in Ms Stuckey's office.

We don't comment on private conversations the Premier may or may not have had



Scott Whitby
Deputy Director
Government Media Unit
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Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 3:18 PM
To: Killoran, Matthew
Subject: response to query

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Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 3:49 PM
To: Kate Barwick
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Cheers,

Matt Killoran

From: Kate Barwick [<mailto:Kate.Barwick@ministerial.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2013 3:13 PM
To: Killoran, Matthew
Subject: response to query

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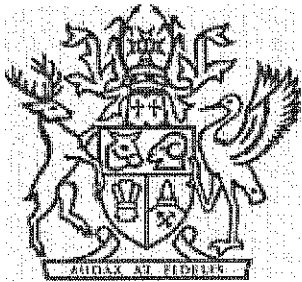
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“In relation to Ms Keep, she has been appointed to fill a vacancy in the Environment Minister’s office while the Tourism Minister’s office is in the process of appointing a new media adviser.”



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Scott Whitby

From: Lee Anderson
Sent: Friday, 19 April 2013 3:43 PM
To: killoranM@gcb.newsltd.com.au
Subject: RE: Minister Stuckey staffing questions

G'day Matt

I'm happy to answer any questions you might have regarding Ms Stuckey's portfolio responsibilities.

Regards.

From: Killoran, Matthew [mailto:matthew.killoran@news.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 19 April 2013 2:49 PM
To: Lee Anderson
Subject: Minister Stuckey staffing questions

Hi Lee,

Thanks for your time on the phone. As I mentioned I have some questions in relation to the amount of staff turnover at Minister Jann Stuckey's office. Further to what has been published in the Bulletin this morning and previously, I understand senior policy advisor Peter Turnbull left her office last week, while in mid-2012 executive assistant to then-COS Mike D'Arcy, Alessia Maruca, had her contract terminated. It brings the number of staff to leave the Minister's office, for a variety of reasons, to 12.

1 – Is there or will there be an investigation into the amount of staff turnover at Minister Jann Stuckey's office? Why or why not?

2 – I understand staff have made complaints to yourself, as the head of the Government's media unit, in relation to their treatment by the Minister. Has there or will there be any action taken in relation to this?

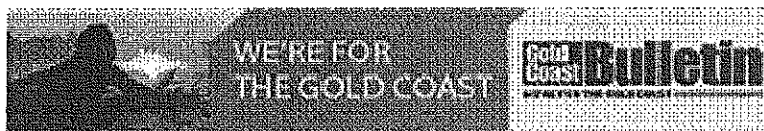
3 - At least 12 staff have left her office, for a variety of reasons include having their contract terminated, retirement, and transfer/rotation to other office. It appears to be a high level of turn over for what has been a relatively short space of time. Can you comment on why there has been this level of turnover?

4 – There have been allegations that a "toxic environment" exists within the office. Can you comment on this?

Can I receive a response before 5pm? If there's any troubles or questions please give me a buzz on S.73 Telephone N

Cheers,

Matthew Killoran
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Scott Whitby

From: Lee Anderson
Sent: Monday, 22 April 2013 1:48 PM
To: killoranM@gcb.newsltd.com.au
Subject: RE: Minister Stuckey staff inquiry

G'day Matt.
Please see responses below.
cheers

From: Killoran, Matthew [mailto:matthew.killoran@news.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 22 April 2013 1:31 PM
To: Lee Anderson
Subject: RE: Minister Stuckey staff inquiry

Hi Lee,

Three staff have now left in the past three weeks and 13 staff have left over all. Given the number of staff continuing to leave the office – for a variety of reasons – it appears there is an ongoing issue within the Minister's office. I understand staff have made complaints in relation to their treatment by the Minister. If there is an issue such as this in one of the Ministers' offices, it should be taken seriously. Emma from Ms Stuckey's office said all questions should be directed to you.

1 – I understand Ms Foley has been transferred to another Minister's office. To which one and for what reason?

Ms Foley has accepted an offer of a position in Minister Dempsey's office.

2 – The number of staff that have been rotated out of the office or left for other reasons is beyond that seen in other Ministerial offices. Is the matter being looked in to? What is being done to address the situation?

Staff movements and turnover occur in all workplaces, including newsrooms.

3 – Given the number of staff to come and go in a relatively short period of time from the Minister's office, does this raise a question of the Minister's ability to manage her portfolio?

No

4 – The Opposition have said it is a matter that the Premier should look into, to ensure there are no ongoing issues within Minister Stuckey's office. Has he or will he do this?

The Premier is very happy with the job Minister Stuckey is doing. She is making strong progress reversing the decline in the state's tourism industry caused by Labor's appalling record of neglect, as well as delivering significant initiatives for small business, and ensuring the Commonwealth Games are positioned to be an outstanding success.

Can I get a response this afternoon?

If you have any problems or queries please give me a call on 0428 384 881.

Cheers,

Matt Killoran

From: Lee Anderson [mailto:Lee.Anderson@ministerial.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 22 April 2013 12:08 PM
To: Killoran, Matthew
Subject: RE: Minister Stuckey staff inquiry

Gday Matt

What can I help you with?

From: Killoran, Matthew [mailto:matthew.killoran@news.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 22 April 2013 10:25 AM
To: Lee Anderson
Subject: Minister Stuckey staff inquiry


Hi Lee,

I understand another staff member has left Minister Jann Stuckey's office as of today, specifically her media adviser Alexandra Foley. Ms Stuckey's office said to speak to you in relation to this. Can you give me a call to discuss this on [S.73 Telephone Np](tel:0753737373)

Cheers,

Matthew Killoran
Reporter
Gold Coast Publications Pty Ltd
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Lee Anderson

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Cheers,

Matthew Killoran


Reporter

Gold Coast Publications Pty Ltd

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Lee Anderson

From: Lee Anderson
Sent: Monday, 22 April 2013 12:08 PM
To: Killoran, Matthew
Subject: RE: Minister Stuckey staff inquiry

Gday Matt

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Sent: Monday, 22 April 2013 10:25 AM
To: Lee Anderson
Subject: Minister Stuckey staff inquiry

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Cheers,

Matthew Killoran
Reporter
Gold Coast Publications Pty Ltd
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Lee Anderson

From: Lee Anderson
Sent: Friday, 19 April 2013 3:43 PM
To: killoranM@gcb.newsltd.com.au
Subject: RE: Minister Stuckey staffing questions

G'day Matt

I'm happy to answer any questions you might have regarding Ms Stuckey's portfolio responsibilities.

Regards.

From: Killoran, Matthew [mailto:matthew.killoran@news.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 19 April 2013 2:49 PM
To: Lee Anderson
Subject: Minister Stuckey staffing questions

Hi Lee,

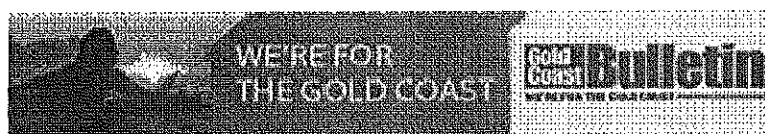
Thanks for your time on the phone. As I mentioned I have some questions in relation to the amount of staff turnover at Minister Jann Stuckey's office. Further to what has been published in the Bulletin this morning and previously, I understand senior policy advisor Peter Turnbull left her office last week, while in mid-2012 executive assistant to then-COS Mike D'Arcy, Alessia Maruca, had her contract terminated. It brings the number of staff to leave the Minister's office, for a variety of reasons, to 12.


- 1 – Is there or will there be an investigation into the amount of staff turnover at Minister Jann Stuckey's office? Why or why not?
- 2 – I understand staff have made complaints to yourself, as the head of the Government's media unit, in relation to their treatment by the Minister. Has there or will there be any action taken in relation to this?
- 3 - At least 12 staff have left her office, for a variety of reasons include having their contract terminated, retirement, and transfer/rotation to other office. It appears to be a high level of turn over for what has been a relatively short space of time. Can you comment on why there has been this level of turnover?
- 4 – There have been allegations that a "toxic environment" exists within the office. Can you comment on this?

Can I receive a response before 5pm? If there's any troubles or questions please give me a buzz on S.73 Telephone N

Cheers,

Matthew Killoran
Reporter
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