

Statement

By the Chairperson, NSW Electoral Commission

25 September 2017

Withdrawal of charge against the Australian Labor Party Member for Wallsend

On 26 July 2017, I issued a statement advising that a charge had been laid against the Australian Labor Party Member for Wallsend, Ms Sonia Homery MP, for using enrolment information for a purpose not permitted under the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 7912 ("the Act").

Following representations from the Member's legal advisers, further consideration was given to the operation of the Act in this particular matter. In light of that consideration, doubts have arisen regarding aspects of the operation of the legislation. Therefore, the Commission has decided not to continue the prosecution of the Member for Wallsend.

The Commission has formally withdrawn the charge and the matter was dismissed by the Court today, 25 September 2017

ABOUT THE NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSION

In December 2014, the three member Electoral Commission was constituted. It is separate to the agency led by the Electoral Commissioner. The Commission is an independent, statutory authority. It approves public funding to the political parties and others and enforces the provisions of four NSW Acts. These provisions govern electoral funding, expenditure and disclosures, the conduct of State and local government elections and the lobbying of government officials. The Commission's Chairperson is the Hon Keith Mason AC QC, a former President of the NSW Court of Appeal (1997 to 2008). Information about this independent Commission's work can view viewed at: www.elections.nsw.gov.au/about_us/work_of_the_commission.