

# Communist Party of Australia

## Central Committee

General Secretary: Andrew Irving  
President: Vinnie Molina

74 Buckingham St  
Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia

Ph: +61 2 9699 8844  
Fax: +61 2 9699 9833  
Email: [president@cpa.org.au](mailto:president@cpa.org.au)  
Web: [www.cpa.org.au](http://www.cpa.org.au)



## Letter to all Branch' Secretaries

July 2019

### False allegations and clarification

Comrades of State & District Committees, branch secretaries and unattached Party members, we issue this letter as a matter of clarification on the false allegations by former general secretary Bob Briton and the so-called ACP.

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July the ACP posted on FB false allegations of wage theft. The FB account used was stolen from the CPA by them, and in that recent post the ACP admitted having done so.

Bob Briton was employed and paid for his work as a writer for the Guardian. He was employed for 20 hours per week and like all those employed to work on the Guardian he took paid recreation leave during the period of non-production from about mid-December to the third week in January the following year.

Bob was not employed as general secretary; this was his duty for the privilege of serving the Party. Like many other Party comrades advancing the interests of the working class and the struggle for socialism we tirelessly work many hours per week. Most of this work is voluntary for example the General Secretary and National President are not paid. On the contrary the Party is supported by our pledges and through our commitment we give our labour on a voluntary basis and both are requirements of membership. Bob did have an expense account of \$5000 to support that role that was topped up regularly as receipts were received.

The ACP is claiming that Bob worked in excess of 60 hours per week and took only a couple of weeks leave across the whole period. Bob has been demanding thousands of dollars in compensation for work he was never employed for.

When leaving Bob also took property such as digital files the CPA paid for as part of the CPA archive project and he knew in advance that our intellectual property such as the FB page was being taken and did nothing to prevent it. Our FB page had more than 10K likes. When approached to return these his last response by SMS was to get stuffed.

Bob's entitlements were determined for us by an independent accountant based on his employment as a journalist at the Guardian. Unhappy with the calculation for the termination payment Bob approached a union to represent him. In his claim with the union he told them several lies (blurring Party work with his Guardian employment) and omissions (such as not disclosing the 5 paid weeks of leave annually) to build up an exorbitant claim which has no leg to stand on. We believe that our calculations are correct and the payment made to him is in excess of his entitlements.

In the midst of our negotiations with the union, the ACP decided to publicly accuse the CPA of wage theft through a post that is still up on their website and social media. In that post they called on people to harass the Party President and to post on our social media. We informed the union that we will not negotiate with Bob on social media and as such we viewed that our negotiations with the union had been voided. Bob has been paid the termination payment calculated by our accountant.

We ask all branch secretaries to clarify this act of treachery by the CPA former general secretary. We are pleased at the discipline being shown by Party comrades to not be baited into responding through social media. This shows we can be very disciplined and is a credit to you all.

In comradeship,

CPA Secretariat