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'Jobs for Mates' culture continues as ANAO Report Reveals Flawed Process in NRF Board Appointment

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has confirmed that the appointment of a senior union official to the Federal Government's \$15bn National Reconstruction Fund board was made without appropriate due diligence—raising serious concerns about transparency and governance in federal appointments.

The ANAO's report, released last week, found that formal due diligence checks were not undertaken before recommending the board appointment and the appointee had not been shortlisted for the role. Such captain's picks undermine the public's trust in our political system and can be rectified by mandating the use of independent selections panels for important public body appointments.

Quotes attributable to Dr Sophie Scamps, MP for Mackellar

"This is about the process, not the individual. Australians deserve confidence that appointments to powerful public institutions are made fairly, transparently, with due diligence and based on merit—not based on political connections."

"Despite its pre-election promises to clean up politics, the 'jobs for mates' culture continues with appointments to well-paid government positions made without following a transparent and independent selection process. It's the same pattern we've seen time and time again."

"In response to the political stacking of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal during the Morrison era, I introduced my Ending Jobs for Mates bill to bring in a fair and open process for public appointments and help rebuild trust. You really have to ask—what's stopping the Government from getting behind it?"

"The Government is long overdue in releasing their own review into Commonwealth board appointments. It's been more than two years since they announced a review into Commonwealth board appointments by former Public Service Commissioner Lynelle Briggs, but the completed review remains hidden from the public."

"If the Government is serious about ending the 'jobs for mates' culture in Canberra and restoring trust, it must release the Briggs report now."

"A crucial precedent was set when the use of independent selection panels was mandated for appointments to the recently re-established Administrative Review Tribunal."

"Independent selection panels should be mandated for all major public appointments including the National Reconstruction Fund."

"Cronyism erodes democracy. It's time to act."

ENDS

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