

# Plymouth Brethren Christian Church

24 June 2026

Mr Samuel Thompson  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
R1.110 Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: [em@aph.gov.au](mailto:em@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Thompson,

*I write to update my correspondence of 22 June 2026, after the realisation that I had inadvertently referenced the incorrect date for the media story. The updated letter is below. I look forward to your response in due course.*

I write to raise serious concerns about the Joint Standing Committee's conduct following media reports in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* which on 30 May 2026 published a story which [stated](#):

*"Former members of the church, speaking anonymously out of concerns for retribution, have told this masthead that a senior Brethren figure had agreed to appear before the Committee but, after the hearing date was confirmed, had pulled out of the grilling."*

These reports are wrong. My engagement with this process has been conducted in good faith. And to that end, to date I have also not shared our correspondence with anyone outside of my immediate team.

As the Committee is the only other party to our correspondence, it is clear that our exchanges have been wilfully misrepresented and leaked to the media. This is a damning indictment of the Committee's integrity and handling of confidential information.

Regrettably, this is just the latest serious breach of trust. Since the Inquiry was established, we have documented:

- Undisclosed conflicts of interest: Michael Butterworth, a Member of the Committee Chair's staff, made a submission critical of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church, without disclosing his employer or any party affiliation.
- Selective witness recruitment and evidence publication: Two prominent anti-PBCC activists were actively pursued to give evidence despite making no submissions.
- Failure of process: A submission from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, which aligned in part with our perspectives and which was dated November, did not appear online until May.
- Leaking of confidential information: The Committee has now leaked our correspondence to the media, anti-Church activists, or both.

This pattern of behaviour is not consistent with an impartial Parliamentary Inquiry. It has the hallmarks of a taxpayer-funded campaign against our Church.

Despite these concerns, I remain willing to appear before the Committee in order to state the facts. This is my third offer in writing to do so.

I look forward to working with you to find an appropriate date. Perhaps we could arrange a time after the Chair returns from the World Cup in North America.

I also look forward to hearing from you regarding my concerns outlined above.

Yours sincerely,



**Lloyd Grimshaw**  
Director, Plymouth Brethren Christian Church.

