



26 MAR, 2021

AXE TOSSERS IN CANBERRA

Courier Mail, Brisbane

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STAFFER NAMED
AS GOVT HUNTS
FOR CULPRITS

**JAMES MORROW
CLARE ARMSTRONG**

PRESSURE is mounting on the federal government to identify and dismiss the remaining individuals involved in a bizarre sex scandal in which male parliamentary staffers committed lewd acts on the desks of female MPs, and around Parliament House in Canberra, and brought sex workers into the building.

Already one staffer, Nathan Winn, is understood to have left his employ with the Morrison government, since the original story was broadcast on Network 10 this week.

Mr Winn had worked in the office of the Chief Government Whip until Monday evening, in a position he had held since he was hired by the newly installed Turnbull government in October 2015.

Soon after the news report aired, it is believed Mr Winn deleted his social media accounts and left his employ with the government.

But with other people involved remaining in the building, staffers say they are

feeling under a cloud until the matter is resolved.

One Coalition staffer told The Courier-Mail they were concerned some gay staffers were being approached by people in Parliament House and asked "was it you?".

NSW Liberal Senator Hollie Hughes said Parliament needed those involved in the acts to leave so the Coalition could get on with its job.

"The people involved in this sort of activity should look to make an exit," she said. "It doesn't have to be a public sacking, but it's past time they show some respect for this building and what it stands for, as well as their fellow staff and colleagues who are all under this cloud, and depart."

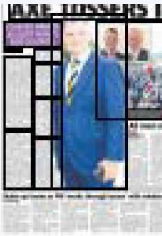
Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton also told 2GB he was "shocked" and "revolted" by the report, adding that the behaviour "tarnished" the reputations of everyone who worked in Parliament House.

But senior government sources say that while there is

speculation as to the identities of the others involved, they are unable to take disciplinary action until they have positive proof of their involvement.

The calls for action came as an anonymous Twitter user, claiming to be the whistleblower who leaked the images which sparked the original report, wrote that he had provided the government and Labor Senator Kristina Keneally with further information about the alleged activities, which included signing in male sex workers for at least one male Coalition MP.

In a statement, Senator Keneally said her office was "verbally provided detailed infor-



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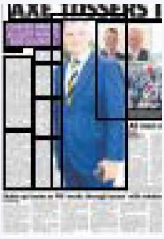
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mation in response to what the person described as misleading statements by the Prime Minister in Question Time about the allegations that sex workers had been procured for Coalition members of parliament and other disturbing content”.

Finance Minister Simon Birmingham said the claims were “disgusting and inappropriate” in any office, but “particularly in the nation’s Parliament”.

“I assure everyone we ... are taking all steps possible to ensure appropriate consequences for anyone found to have done the wrong thing,” he said.





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