

# DEMOCRATS

www.democrats.org.au

## National President Darren Churchill

President@democrats.org.au

www.democrats.org.au

14th January, 2013

Shawn O'Brien, Registrar of Political Parties  
Australian Electoral Commission  
West Block Offices  
Victoria Terrace  
PARKES ACT 2600

PO Box 6172  
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Shawn,

E: National Registered Officer

We refer to your letter of 24th December, 2012, referring to an application to change the Registered Officer of the Australian Democrats.

We note that our current Registered Officer, John Charles (Charlie) Bell has written and advised you of his position in relation to the proposal, in a letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

Please be advised that there has been no valid motion of National Executive to change the Registered Officer, since 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009 when Charlie Bell was appointed to replace Andrew Bartlett.

Charlie has advised you "there is a small group within the Australian Democrats that is conspiring to take over the party." Members of that group include members who in March 2012, lodged an unauthorised submission to the AEC's membership audit of the party, which contained many errors and would have resulted in loss of registration.

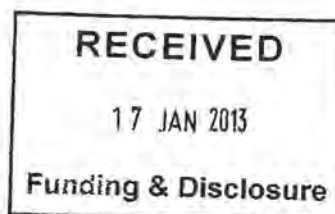
The person they have attempted to appoint, Paul Morgan, is a relatively new member (10 months). Mr Morgan did not even provide the party with his correct electoral address and was therefore not included in the final list submitted by the National Secretary, Roger Howe to the AEC.

Whilst the three people claiming to appoint Mr Morgan are members of the party, they are not authorised to do so.

As the AEC is aware, Stuart Horrex is **NOT** the National Secretary. Roger Howe is the Secretary and the National President will confirm this, over the next few days.

Andrew Dean (Drew) Simmons is not the National Membership Officer. Drew was part of the renegade membership submission to the AEC in March 2012 (and is currently the subject of a resulting internal investigation). He has no access to the Membership Database other than for NSW (where he holds office as State President).

David Orr holds no office in the party outside of the NSW Division.



## National Secretary Roger Howe (Acting)

Secretary@democrats.org.au

### National Office

Suite 11/22 Stirling Street, Melbourne VIC  
5031  
(08) 7070 6070  
inquiries@democrats.org.au

### Australian Capital Territory

PO Box 4070, Kingston ACT 2604  
0412 196 473  
info@act.democrats.org.au

### New South Wales

PO Box R1680, Royal Exchange Sydney  
NSW 1225  
(02) 9818 4711  
Mobile: 04 2381 3387  
nswdems@democrats.org.au

### Northern Territory

Please refer to Western Australian contacts

### Queensland

PO Box 575, Oxenford QLD 4210  
0418 293 629  
secretary@qld.democrats.org.au

### South Australia

Suite 11/22 Stirling Street, Melbourne VIC  
5031  
(08) 7070 6070  
sa.democrats@democrats.org.au

### Tasmania

PO Box 139, Launceston TAS 7250  
0428 289 8401  
jeremy@australiandemocrats.org.au

### Victoria

PO Box 135, East Melbourne VIC 3002  
(03) 9539 3034  
vicdems@democrats.org.au

### Western Australia

0420 301 170  
office@wa.democrats.org.au  
National Office

# DEMOCRATS

www.democrats.org.au

## National President Darren Churchill

President@democrats.org.au

www.democrats.org.au

Due to the internal situation, National Executive has not met since September in order for the party to conduct a new ballot for National President. The newly elected National President (now with fresh authority), Darren Churchill will convene a constitutional meeting of the National Executive before the end of January.

The National President ballot, which concluded on 12<sup>th</sup> December, saw Mr Churchill win 73% of the vote.

The factional group has attempted to conduct unauthorised National Executive business by email motions. This included an attempt to appoint officer positions in a secretive, invalid process, which deliberately excluded three voting members of the National Executive and included some invalid proxies from Tasmania and Queensland, as well as one person claiming to be a Deputy National President when e wasn't.

In light of this information and that provided by Charlie Bell, we ask the AEC to continue to recognise John Charles (Charlie) Bell as Registered Officer of the Australian Democrats.

Yours Sincerely,



Darren Churchill  
National President  
Australian Democrats



Roger Howe  
National Secretary (Acting)  
Australian Democrats

## National Secretary Roger Howe (Acting)

Secretary@democrats.org.au

Suite 11/22 Stirling Street, Fremantle SA  
5031

(08) 7070 6070

inquiries@democrats.org.au

## Australian Capital Territory

PO Box 4070, Kingston ACT 2604

0412 196 473

info@act.democrats.org.au

## New South Wales

PO Box R1680, Royal Exchange Sydney

NSW 1225

(02) 9818 4711

Mobile: 04 2381 3387

nswdems@democrats.org.au

## Northern Territory

Please refer to Western Australian contacts

## Queensland

PO Box 575, Oxenford QLD 4210

0418 293 629

secretary@qld.democrats.org.au

## South Australia

Suite 11/22 Stirling Street, Fremantle SA

5031

(08) 7070 6070

sa.democrats@democrats.org.au

## Tasmania

PO Box 139, Launceston Tas 7250

0428 289 8401

jeremy@australiandemocrats.org.au

## Victoria

PO Box 135, East Melbourne Vic 3002

(03) 9539 3034

vicdems@democrats.org.au

## Western Australia

0420 301 170

office@wa.democrats.org.au