



# Media Release

## Senator Mathias Cormann

### *Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training*

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#### **PLEASE EXPLAIN MINISTER ARBIB**

Minister Arbib still has a lot of explaining to do in the wake of allegations that funding from the Rudd Labor government's 'jobs fund' significantly favoured Labor electorates.

"I note the Minister's statement through a spokeswoman that he was apparently not involved in the decision making on those grants," Senator Cormann said.

"There are however different ways to skin a cat and these distortions in funding allocations don't happen by accident.

"How was the availability of those grants advertised for example? Was particular encouragement and advertising material provided to Labor Members and Senators?"

"This reeks of your typical NSW Labor Party modus operandi.

"Grants from the Jobs Fund should be distributed based on need..

"Mark Arbib has to come out today and clearly answer a number of outstanding questions:

- How did the Rudd Labor government advertise those grants from the job funds?
- Were those grants advertised completely equally across all electorates?
- Or did the Minister or his office provide special encouragement to Labor Members and Senators to promote those grants in their electorates? If so how?
- Was special promotional material provided to Labor Members and Senators at taxpayer's expense to promote those grants in Labor electorates?
- Was the same encouragement given to non-Labor Members and Senators?
- Did the Minister or his office provide any material to the ALP to assist them in encouraging Labor Members and Senators to advertise those grants from the 'jobs fund'?
- How were the decisions to allocate funding made and by whom exactly?
- What were the criteria and were they strictly applied on an objective basis?
- Given the Minister's spokesperson has ruled out any personal involvement by Minister Arbib in the decision making, was there any involvement from staff in his Ministerial office in the decision making and if so what was that level of involvement?

"Minister Arbib needs to categorically rule out any preferential advertising of those grants into Labor electorates. He needs to further rule out himself any involvement by him or his office on how these funds were allocated and directed into specific areas.

"If he can't do that today serious question marks will hang over the Rudd Labor government's integrity around this program," he said.

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