

22 - Irrelevant material



From: 22 - Irrelevant

Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 10:33 AM

To: 22 - @thepoint.com.au

Subject: RE: Contact number for 22 -

Dear 22 -

Thank you for your call earlier.

As discussed, the Commission is aware of an article proposed for publication on The Point which will contain false, misleading and inaccurate reporting about the Commission's Deputy Commissioners. This includes reporting that they are not qualified for their roles and were secretly selected, which is not correct and has not been put to us for an appropriate response.

Similarly, we understand the article will contain factually inaccurate reporting on the

Commission's consideration of the Robodebt Royal Commission referrals. Questions about this topic have also not been put to the Commission for an appropriate response.

Should false, misleading, inaccurate or defamatory information appear in the article, the Commission will not hesitate to correct the record and protect the reputations of those named in the article.

I am available on the number below if you'd like to discuss further.

Kind regards,

22 - Irrelevant

22 - Irrelevant

Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant

E 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au



From: 22 - Irrelevant

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 3:48 PM

To: 'contact@thepoint.com.au' <contact@thepoint.com.au>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant @thepoint.com.au; 22 - Irrelevant @thepoint.com.au;

22 - Irrelevant material

Subject: Contact number for 22 - Irrelevant

Good afternoon,

On behalf the National Anti-Corruption Commission, I am seeking a contact number for your editor, 22 - Irrelevant material to urgently speak with her regarding an upcoming article.

I can be contacted on the number below, if easier to contact me directly in response to this email.

Thank you,

22 - Irrelevant

22 - Irrelevant

Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant
E 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au



22 - Irrelevant material



From: NACC - Media

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 1:40 PM

To: Nick Feik 22 - Irrelevant

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett

Hi 22 - Irrelevant

Please see our response below.

Deputy Commissioner Gauntlett has never met or had any dealings with Mr Morrison or attended any form of Liberal Party event. His appointment to the Australian Human Rights Commission was consistent with legislation that existed at the time and occurred because of the appointment of Dr Alastair McEwin to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

The Commission is confident its Deputy Commissioners made all appropriate declarations of actual or perceived conflicts of interest concerning their involvement in the Robodebt referrals.

Thanks,

NACC Media
nacc.gov.au



From: Nick Feik 22 - Irrelevant material
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 5:00 PM
To: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett

Dear NACC,

I'm researching an article about the appointments and roles of deputy commissioners to the NACC.

The following questions relate to these facts:

When the NACC began considering the Robodebt Six referrals, Deputy Commission Gauntlett was tasked with “considering options for dealing with the public official who was not a public servant”, according to NACC Inspector Gail Furness in her October 2024 report.

Dr Gauntlett had previously spent almost five years as Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), where he was one of two commissioners appointed by the Morrison government “without an open, merit-based selection process”, according to the Australian Human Rights Institute in 2019, and confirmed by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) – the international standards body.

Gauntlett was thus placed in a position of influence in the NACC’s decision-making process around (fmr PM) Scott Morrison less than six months after he had left a role for which he was hand-picked by the Morrison government.

The following questions relate to this potential conflict:

- Did Dr Gauntlett declare this background or any aspect of it when tasked with considering options for dealing with the public official subsequently revealed to be Scott Morrison?
- Was the NACC aware of the circumstances of Dr Gauntlett's previous appointment as Disability Discrimination Commissioner when tasked with this role?
- Did the NACC consider the possibility of a perception of a conflict of interest in this case? If so, how did it deal with this?

I request your response by COB Monday.

Many thanks,

Nick Feik

From: 22 - [REDACTED]
To: Paul Brereton; Philip Reed; Kylie Kilgour; Nicole Rose; Ben Gauntlett
Cc: 22 - [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Sunday, 26 April 2026 1:55:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
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[image020.png](#)
[image021.png](#)
[image022.png](#)
[image023.png](#)
[image024.png](#)
[image025.png](#)
[image026.png](#)
[image027.png](#)
[image028.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

I understand we're aware of The Point publishing the article yesterday despite best efforts to talk them out of it.

<https://thepoint.com.au/opinions/260425-built-to-fail-nacc-the-integrity-body-undermined-from-within>

I just wanted to confirm it won't appear in our morning media clips email tomorrow, and I am available if you want to discuss any further steps.

Thank you,

22 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: Paul Brereton 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 11:20:24 AM
To: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed 22 - [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour 22 - [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose 22 - [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks 22 - [REDACTED]

I agree, it's best not to 'poke the bear' by further engagement at this point – the ball is in their court.

Best regards,

PBrereton

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC

Commissioner

P. 22 - Irrelevant

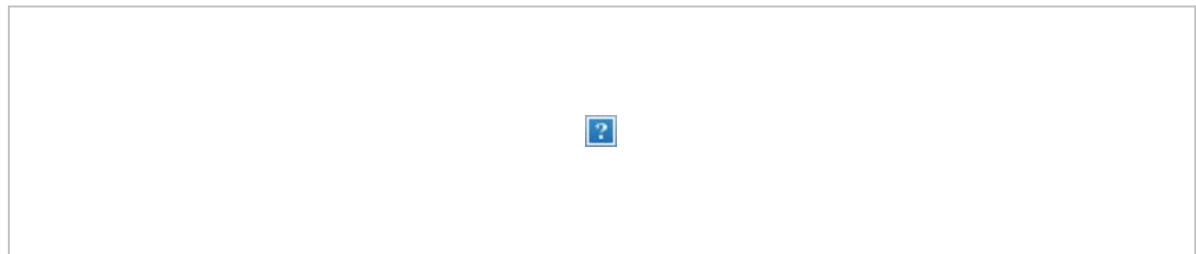
M. 22 - Irrelevant

E. 22 - [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)

EA: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au



From: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 9:51 AM

To: Paul Brereton 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Philip Reed 22 - [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Kylie Kilgour 22 - [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Nicole Rose 22 - [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Ben Gauntlett 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning Commissioner,

That's right, nothing further. I'm continuing to keep an eye on their website in case anything is published and I'll let you know if I hear anything in response to my email. I wouldn't advise we engage any further, at this point – I think the ball is in the editor and the journalist's court for now.

Cheers,

22 - [REDACTED]

22 - Irrelevant

Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant

E 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au



From: Paul Brereton 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 9:42 AM

To: 22 - Irrelevant Material @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed 22 - @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour 22 - @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose 22 - @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi 22 - [REDACTED]

I assume we've heard nothing further on this front?

Best regards,

PBrereton

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

P. 22 - Irrelevant

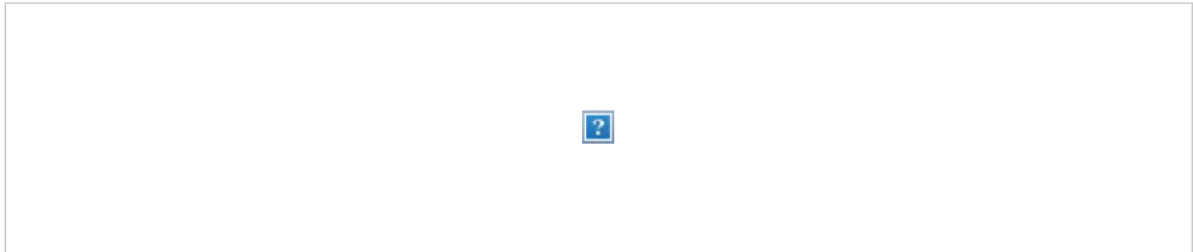
M. 22 - Irrelevant

E. 22 - @nacc.gov.au

EA: 22 - Irrelevant Material @nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



From: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 10:32 AM
To: Philip Reed <[\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Kylie Kilgour <[\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Paul Brereton <[\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Nicole Rose <[\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Ben Gauntlett <[\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>
Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

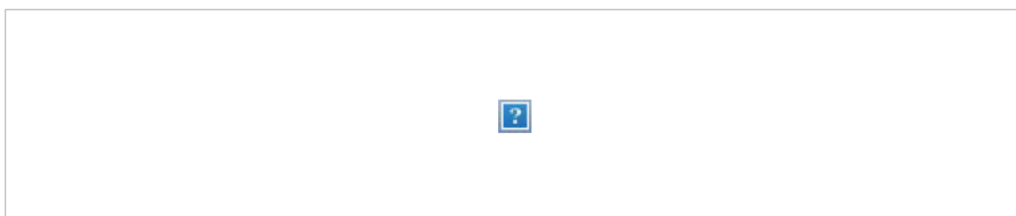
Thank you all for the quick response. I will send, in the interests of time, and keep you updated on any developments.

Cheers,

22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED]

22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED]
Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED]
E 22 - Irrelevant <[\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>



From: Philip Reed <[\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>

Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 10:28 AM

To: Kylie Kilgour [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi [22 - Irrelevant] – based on the Commissioner, DC Rose and Kilgour’s responses, the email is approved to send. Please note, DC Gauntlett is in a hearing and wont be contactable until the break. Regards, Philip

From: Kylie Kilgour [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 10:25 AM

To: Paul Brereton [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Also fine with me.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Paul Brereton [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:23 am

To: Nicole Rose [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

So do I!

PBrereton

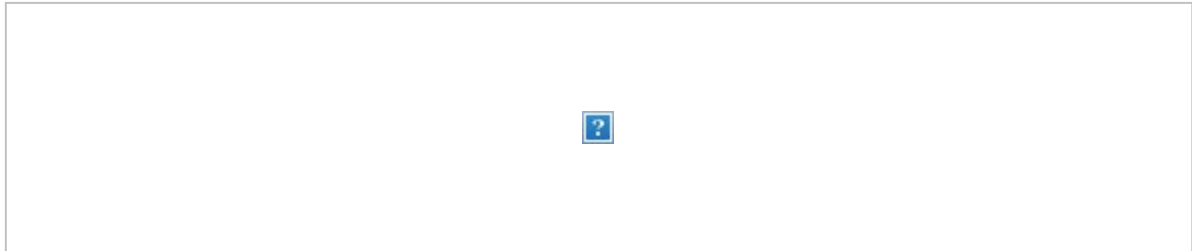
The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

P. [22 - Irrelevant]

M. 22 - Irrelevant
 E. 22 - [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au
 EA: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



From: Nicole Rose 22 - [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 10:16 AM
To: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed 22 - [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour 22 - [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you so much 22 - [REDACTED] I like it!

From: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 10:14 AM
To: Paul Brereton 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed 22 - [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose 22 - [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour 22 - [REDACTED] @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning Commissioner and Philip,

I spoke with the editor, 22 - [REDACTED], just now. I put to her essentially the dot points below – that we were aware of the imminent publication of an article; that it would allege the DCs were not qualified and secretly appointed to their roles; that this information was not correct and had not been put to us for a response; that it would also contain inaccurate information about the Commission’s consideration of the RRC referrals

which also had not been put to us; and that we would not hesitate to correct the record and protect the reputations of anyone named in the article.

She asked for me to put those concerns into an email, so I have drafted the below, for your consideration – I'd be grateful if you could please let me know if you're comfortable for me to send. I don't feel as though it is too late for the article not to be published if we make our concerns clear about the information and process it has been through to this point.

Dear ^{22 -} [REDACTED]

Thank you for your call earlier.

As discussed, the Commission is aware of an article proposed for publication on The Point which will contain false, misleading and inaccurate reporting about the Commission's Deputy Commissioners. This includes reporting that they are not qualified for their roles and were secretly selected, which is not correct and has not been put to us for an appropriate response.

Similarly, we understand the article will contain factually inaccurate reporting on the Commission's consideration of the Robodebt Royal Commission referrals. Questions about this topic have also not been put to the Commission for an appropriate response.

Should false, misleading, inaccurate or defamatory information appear in the article, the Commission will not hesitate to correct the record and protect the reputations of those named in the article.

Kind regards,

I am happy to catch up to discuss,

^{22 -} [REDACTED]

^{22 - Irrelevant}

Acting Director, Media and Communications

M ^{22 - Irrelevant}

E ^{22 - Irrelevant} [\[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)



From: Paul Brereton <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 9:53 AM
To: 22 - Irrelevant Material <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi 22 - Irrelevant

What's the current state of play on this?

Best

PB

From: 22 - Irrelevant Material <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 1:38 PM
To: Philip Reed <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: 22 - Irrelevant material <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you Philip and given the Commissioner's separate OK, I will provide this response now.

22 - Irrelevant
Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant
E 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au



From: Philip Reed <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 1:37 PM
To: 22 - Irrelevant Material <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED] – OK noted thanks. Regards, Philip

From: 22 - Irrelevant Material <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 1:34 PM

To: Philip Reed <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Philip,

Ideally I'd aim to provide the second response by end of day today, after I've had a chance to speak with the editor – to try to minimise the risk of him publishing in the meantime (he did give us until end of day for the DC Gauntlett response).

22 - Irrelevant material
[REDACTED]

Cheers,

22 - Irrelevant
[REDACTED]

22 - Irrelevant
Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant
E 22 - Irrelevant <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>



From: Philip Reed <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 1:09 PM

To: 22 - Irrelevant material <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant material <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi 22 - Irrelevant – so what happens if he publishes prior to the second email? Regards, Philip

From: 22 - Irrelevant Material <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 1:00 PM

To: Nicole Rose <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you Nicole, Philip and Kylie for coming back with feedback.

Philip, just to clarify, on the separate responses point, my suggested approach is to provide the response specific to DC Gauntlett now/soon, and then later provide, in a separate email and with the context of him having asked recently about all of our DCs 22 - Irrelevant material the additional lines regarding the appointment process and rejecting the notion that they are not suitable for the roles. I would do this following a conversation with The Point's editor.

Please let me know if this makes sense and happy to discuss.

Cheers,

22 - Irrelevant

22 - Irrelevant

Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant

E 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au



From: Nicole Rose <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 12:36 PM

To: Philip Reed <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; 22 - Irrelevant material <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant material <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

I would also be adding in the role PJCNACC play in approving all of our appointments.

From: Philip Reed [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 12:26 PM
To: [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi [22 - Irrelevant] – I would prefer that we provide all the information at the same time, rather than single out one DC, given his premise is that they are not fit for their offices as DCs.
Regards, Philip

From: [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 11:58 AM
To: Paul Brereton [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: [22 - Irrelevant material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you Commissioner, I think that is a good suggestion.

I have spoken with Ben and we think it's best to separate out the query about him and provide him the response as we all agreed previously, so I will provide that in the next hour or so if no objections.

I have drafted some below additional lines to possible provide later, and also an overview to frame my discussion with The Point, for your consideration below. Please let me know if you'd like me to proceed, have any feedback or would like to discuss.

Cheers,

[22 - Irrelevant]
[redacted]

Additional lines

- *The Commission rejects any suggestion that its Deputy Commissioners are underqualified or not otherwise suitable to hold their positions.*
- *Each Deputy Commissioner was appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the then Attorney-General, following a rigorous, transparent and merit-based selection and vetting process managed by the Attorney-General's Department.*

Discussion points

- We are concerned that an article proposed for imminent publication contains false, misleading or otherwise inaccurate conclusions about the Commission's Deputy Commissioners.
- Specifically, we understand the article may allege the Deputy Commissioners are un- or otherwise under-qualified for their important roles.
- These allegations are not correct, misleading and have not been put to the Commission for an appropriate response (refer to response above).
- Similarly, we understand the article may allege Commissioner Holmes' findings in the Robodebt RC were 'overruled' through Operation Myrtleford, the Commission's investigation into 6 persons referred from the RC. This incorrect allegation has also not been put to the Commission for a response.
 - Commissioner Holmes had no jurisdiction to make findings under the NACC Act.
 - Nothing that was said in the Operation Myrtleford report "overrules" Commissioner Holmes' findings.
 - The fact that she was a judge is irrelevant.
 - The RC and Operation Myrtleford were separate exercises of different powers and functions.
 - The Deputy Commissioner responsible for Op Myrtleford was advised on all matters and findings by a former High Court justice and eminent counsels assisting.
- Should defamatory or otherwise incorrect information appear in this article, the

Commission will not hesitate in acting to correct the record and to protect the reputations of those named in this article.

22 - Irrelevant

Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant

E 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au



From: Paul Brereton 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 10:03 AM

To: Philip Reed 22 - @nacc.gov.au>; 22 - Irrelevant material @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant material @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose 22 - @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour 22 - @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

My suggestion of developing a list of points we would put to him/them is intended to cover all Deputies. Can I suggest we put that together now and consider providing it:

- To Feik, in addition to the response to his query re DC Gauntlett
- Possibly to *The Point*, after reaching out and suggesting they should carefully factcheck anything.

At least if we put together a draft now that will be a basis for discussion.

Best regards,

PBrereton

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

P. 22 - Irrelevant

M. 22 - Irrelevant

E. 22 - @nacc.gov.au

EA: 22 - Irrelevant Material @nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



From: Philip Reed [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 9:54 AM
To: Paul Brereton [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi [22 - Irrelevant] – my concern stands that this is now about all 3 DCs. This person has only asked about DC Gauntlett, yet we know that the story will challenge the fitness for office for all 3 DCs.

Does this mean that he stands by his comments about DC Rose from the initial approach? And there has been no checking about DC Kilgour who has been referred to in the podcast.

I note that the Commissioner has agreed we contact the editor of The Point re factchecking, given this is one of their headings on their website. But publication appears to be imminent and will they agree?

Regards, Philip

From: Paul Brereton [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 9:43 AM
To: [22 - Irrelevant Material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: [22 - Irrelevant material] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour [22 - Irrelevant] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks 22 - [REDACTED]

If DC Gauntlett is happy with that, then I am also.

Best regards,

PBrereton

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

P. 22 - Irrelevant

M. 22 - Irrelevant

E. 22 - [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)

EA: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au



From: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 8:51 AM

To: Paul Brereton 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Ben Gauntlett 22 - Irrelevant [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Philip Reed 22 - [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Nicole Rose 22 - [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>; Kylie Kilgour 22 - [REDACTED] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning all,

Just coming back to the response to the query, for consideration, DC Gauntlett suggested the below response, which I think provides a similar defence to what we provided for DC Rose and DC Kilgour:

Deputy Commissioner Gauntlett has never met or had any dealings with Mr Morrison or attended any form of Liberal Party event. His appointment to the Australian Human Rights Commission was consistent with legislation that existed at the time and occurred because of the appointment of Dr Alastair McEwin to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

The Commission is confident its Deputy Commissioners made all appropriate declarations of actual or perceived conflicts of interest concerning their involvement in the Robodebt referrals.

Happy to discuss/finalise it as part of a broader discussion later today.

Cheers,

22 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

22 - Irrelevant

Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant

E 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au



From: Paul Brereton 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Saturday, 18 April 2026 2:47 PM

To: 22 - Irrelevant Material @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed 22 - @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose 22 - @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour 22 - @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks 22 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Obviously, DC Gauntlett's input will be decisive on this.

Personally, given this journalist's track record with us, I'd be inclined not to reply at all.

Best regards,

PBrereton

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC

Commissioner

P. 22 - Irrelevant

M. 22 - Irrelevant

E. 22 - [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:22-irrelevant@nacc.gov.au)

EA: 22 - Irrelevant Material [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:22-irrelevant@nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au



From: 22 - Irrelevant Material [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:22-irrelevant@nacc.gov.au)>

Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 6:47 PM

To: Paul Brereton [22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au](mailto:22-irrelevant@nacc.gov.au); Ben Gauntlett [22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au](mailto:22-irrelevant@nacc.gov.au); Philip Reed [22 - @nacc.gov.au](mailto:22-irrelevant@nacc.gov.au)

Cc: 22 - Irrelevant Material [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:22-irrelevant@nacc.gov.au); Nicole Rose [22 - @nacc.gov.au](mailto:22-irrelevant@nacc.gov.au); Kylie Kilgour [22 - @nacc.gov.au](mailto:22-irrelevant@nacc.gov.au)

Subject: FW: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good evening Commissioner, Ben and Philip,

I wanted to bring the below media enquiry we received late this afternoon to your attention given the context – as you may recall, this journalist made a recent enquiry regarding DC Rose (nothing has been published but it may be part of this piece) and also 22 - Irrelevant .

If you would prefer, I am happy to find some time for us to discuss an approach and a possible response on Monday. I note Ben's declaration of interests are in the public domain through a [response to a QoN](#), so we may simply wish to say DC Gauntlett appropriately manages any conflicts of interest and did not have in any this matter – however I am happy to be guided by you and discuss, if easier.

Thank you and apologies for the late in the week email,

22 -

Irrelevant

22 - Irrelevant

Acting Director, Media and Communications

M 22 - Irrelevant

E 22 - Irrelevant [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:Media@nacc.gov.au)



From: Nick Feik 22 - Irrelevant material

Sent: Friday, 17 April 2026 5:00 PM

To: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: Questions - RE Dep Comm Gauntlett

Dear NACC,

I'm researching an article about the appointments and roles of deputy commissioners to the NACC.

Duplicate - Section 22 - Irrelevant material



From: [Paul Brereton](#)
To: 22 - Irrelevant; [Nicole Rose](#); [Kylie Kilgour](#); [Philip Reed](#); [Ben Gauntlett](#)
Subject: RE: 221: How media talks war & 22 - Irrelevant tirade ft. Nick Feik — Serious Danger — Overcast [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 20 April 2026 9:49:39 AM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks 22 - Irrelevant

If the immediate question of the response to Feik's query can be resolved without a meeting – which we seem close to – a meeting about the more general strategy for dealing with his threatened reporting is slightly less urgent.

I like DC Kilgour's idea of reaching out to *The Point* and warning them that they should carefully factcheck with us before any publication.

I think we could prepare a list of things we would point out – DC Kilgour's email provides a good starting point for this, but it will need to cover the other DCs also.

This could also form the basis of a media release in response to anything that might be published.

Best regards,

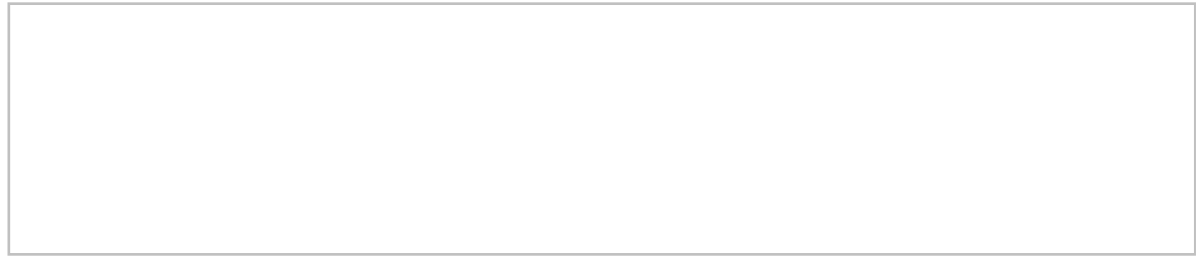
PBrereton

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

P. 22 - Irrelevant
M. 22 - Irrelevant
E. 22 - [@nacc.gov.au](#)
EA: 22 - Irrelevant Material [@nacc.gov.au](#)



nacc.gov.au



From: 22 - Irrelevant Material [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 8:43 AM
To: Paul Brereton [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; 22 - Irrelevant Material [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: 221: How media talks war & 22 - Irrelevant [redacted] tirade ft. Nick Feik — Serious Danger — Overcast [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you, Commissioner.

If you would like us to book in a time to see you today about this, please let me know and I can work with [redacted] to find a gap in your schedule.

Regards

[redacted]

From: Paul Brereton [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 19 April 2026 4:47 PM
To: 22 - Irrelevant Material [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; 22 - Irrelevant Material [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: 221: How media talks war & 22 - Irrelevant [redacted] tirade ft. Nick Feik — Serious Danger — Overcast [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks [redacted] — 22 - Irrelevant material [redacted]

[redacted] agree we should meet at some stage to deal with this issue and response to Feik query.

PB

From: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, 19 April 2026 1:56 PM

To: 22 - Irrelevant Material [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: 221: How media talks war & [REDACTED] tirade ft. Nick Feik — Serious Danger — Overcast [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks for this, [REDACTED]. I just listened and read the transcript.

Noting the related query from Friday has a COB Monday deadline I think it's worth discussing this more broadly, in order to address some of the reporting Feik has been doing.

If useful, [REDACTED] and I can prepare some thoughts and meet with SOH after the ten am tomorrow. Please let us know.

Regards

[REDACTED]

22 - Irrelevant material



From: [Kylie Kilgour](#)
To: 22 - Irrelevant; [Nicole Rose](#); [Paul Brereton](#); [Philip Reed](#); [Ben Gauntlett](#)
Subject: RE: 221: How media talks war & 22 - Irrelevant tirade ft. Nick Feik — Serious Danger — Overcast [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Sunday, 19 April 2026 3:08:58 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi 22 - Irrelevant

While I am happy to meet to discuss I suggest what we do is contact the editor of The Point and point (!) out we have heard what Feik said on this podcast and they should not publish his “story” without it being properly fact checked with us.

If they ask “what?” you can start by saying there was no “secret” selection of any of us. The roles were advertised. There was a competitive merit based selection process managed by AGD and in accordance with the legislation. He has been told this already when he asked about me last year and then about Nicole earlier this year.

Then with respect to the crap he intends to say about me:

In addition to my “undergraduate law degree” I have a BA in Arts, Grad Dip in Legal Practice and have been admitted as a legal practitioner since 2001. It is not a qualification to be a Deputy Commissioner that one must be a barrister or judge and for a range of reasons that is not the career pathway I chose. Airbrushing out that I’ve worked for over 2 decades in a range of serious/ senior legal and public service roles, including 3 years as a Deputy Commissioner at IBAC is misleading.

Also I didn’t “overrule” Catherine Holmes. She had no jurisdiction to make findings under the NACC Act and nothing I said “overrules” her findings. The fact that she was a judge is irrelevant. She did her thing as the Royal Commissioner. I did mine as Deputy Commissioner of the NACC. Separate exercises of different powers and functions. If they would like to actually understand what I did/didn’t do I am happy to explain that further to them/ give them a proper story to publish instead of this crap.

Regards

Kylie

Kylie Kilgour

Deputy Commissioner

M. 22 - Irrelevant

E. 22 - Irrelevant nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



In the spirit of reconciliation, the National Anti-Corruption Commission acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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If you have received this transmission in error please notify us immediately by return e-mail and delete all copies. If this e-mail or any attachments have been sent to you in error, that error does not constitute waiver of any confidentiality, privilege or copyright in respect of information in the e-mail or attachments.

From: 22 - Irrelevant Material @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, 19 April 2026 1:56 PM

To: 22 - Irrelevant Material @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose 22 - @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour 22 - @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed 22 - @nacc.gov.au>; Ben Gauntlett 22 - Irrelevant @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: 221: How media talks war & 22 - Irrelevant tirade ft. Nick Feik — Serious Danger — Overcast [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks for this, 22 - . I just listened and read the transcript.

22 - Irrelevant material



22 - 27/04 9:28 am

22 - Irrelevant

I almost spat out my coffee

Gauntlett was thus placed in a position of influence in the NACC's decision-making process around Morrison less than six months after he had left a role for which he was hand-picked by Morrison's government. (There is no evidence, and it is not alleged, that Gauntlett was in any way influenced or acted with impropriety.)

27/04 9:28 am

it gets worse

Monday, 27 April

27/04 8:58 am

<https://thepoint.com.au/opinions/260425-built-to-fail-nacc-the-integrity-body-undermined-from-within>

FYI - pretty horrible



Built to fail? NACC: the integrity body und... 

The National Anti-Corruption Commission's performance since its inception has been widely condemned. The...

thepoint.com.au



we have a bunch of pretty upset DCs

22 - Irrelevant material

22 - Irrelevant material

Kylie Kilgour 29/04 1:26 pm



99 ...

KK

remembered something else I wanted to say about TORs 1 & 2 - need to use this to refute Shoebridge's comments in The Point article about us disrespecting whistleblowers and complainants - also relevant to messaging in TOR3

