

## **Statement from the Executive Director of the TJRyan Foundation**

The *Annual Report* (2013-2014) from the outgoing Integrity Commissioner, Dr David Solomon, includes a section, 'Raising Awareness' (pp 16-17) which refers to the consequences of Dr Solomon agreeing to speak at the launch of the TJRyan Foundation in February 2014. I was unaware of this exchange between the Commissioner and the Premier's staff until I read the Annual Report.

However I wish to comment here on the specific issue of the appropriateness of the Ryan Foundation as an audience to be addressed by the Integrity Commissioner exercising his statutory function of contributing to public discussion

The Home Page on the TJRyan Foundation website has a section 'About Us' which makes clear the following facts: The Foundation was created by an initiative of the Leader of the Opposition. It received small seeding grants from both the ALP and from the Queensland Council of Unions. However it was always intended that the ALP would have no continuing influence with the Foundation, or its agenda setting, and it was on this basis that I accepted appointment as its inaugural Executive Director. With the exception of the two union nominees, Board members are not ALP members. Many of our 80+ Research Associates are active in other political organisations and most joined on the basis that the Foundation was non-partisan but identified with progressive, evidence-based approaches to public policy.

The Foundation has a continuing relationship with the union movement. The QCU President, and also an AWU nominee, are on the governing Board and the Secretary of the QCU is on the executive committee as Treasurer. All funds received by the Foundation are administered through the QCU and have been devoted exclusively to funding ToadShow to design the website, and other administrative costs. Board members and Research Associates all provide their services entirely pro bono.

Our launch in February, at which Dr Solomon spoke, reflects our commitment to non-partisanship. Invitations were extended to all Members of Parliament and to all Directors-General of government departments. In my opening remarks, I acknowledged the presence of both the Leader of the Opposition and the then-leader of PUP, Dr Alex Douglas. The other speakers on the panel included prominent academics from three Queensland universities.

Since the launch, the TJRyan Foundation has published on its website ten research reports and articles by authors from across a wide political spectrum. The most recent contribution is Research Report 10, which discusses the 2014 Australasian Study of Parliament Group conference held recently in Sydney. This report includes quotations from a paper given by the LNP member for Gympie and an attachment giving the full text of that paper, reproduced with David Gibson's permission.

It is worth noting that the issue of nepotism and patronage appointments remains alive, with the anti-corruption body recommending prosecution of a former Director-General of Education on related charges.

**Emeritus Professor Roger Scott**  
**Executive Director**  
**TJRyan Foundation**  
17.10.14