



STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE AGE ON 7 MARCH 2013

This is our response to the questions The Age has forwarded (see attached). We suggest that in its follow up story tomorrow it informs its readers who has complained about the breakfast held some 15 months ago on 15 December 2011 so they can fairly assess the complaint alongside the reputation and integrity of Mr Costello and Mr Nicholls.

In answer to the questions we reply as follows:

There are political clubs all over Australia which charge membership fees and provide events for their members who pay the same membership fee whether they attend events or not.

Mr Costello regularly addresses these events for which he is not paid. Whether he addresses the event or not the membership fee does not vary. Mr Costello does not organise these gatherings and he does not collect the membership dues.

This was the case for the breakfast in December 2011. He was not paid to attend and collected no money.

This was also the case for any other functions for QForum. He was not paid to attend. He did not ask anyone else to pay to attend. He was invited as an honorary speaker, a role he has performed at thousands of Liberal Party events for over 30 years in every State of Australia.

The Queensland Government sought advice from Mr Costello on measures which could improve its Budget and upgrade its credit rating. Mr Costello has delivered 10 surplus Budgets (more than any other person in the history of Australia). He presided over two upgrades to Australia's sovereign credit rating. He has served on the IMF, the World Bank, and the G-20.

To suggest that he was appointed to advise the Queensland Government because he attended a breakfast, rather than his proven credentials as Australia's longest serving Treasurer is a fantasy and completely untrue.

David Gazard Ph: 0428 405 107

7 March 2013



ATTACHMENT

Fairfax's Metro and papers and websites intend to publish a follow-up story to today's piece, on the complaint that has been lodged with the Crime and Misconduct Commission in Queensland.

First, we are seeking some clarity on two reponses given last night.

1. **"Although Mr Costello, over 20 years as a Federal MP, has had extensive contact with all Divisions of the Liberal Party and speaking at their meetings which he still continues to do he had no role in raising funds for the 2012 LNP State Election."**

and

"Mr Costello did not host a fundraiser for Mr Nicholls in Melbourne. He attended a business briefing for no charge and at which no funds were raised."

We note that the event of December 15, 2011, was a QForum event, which cost attendees \$1500 a head.

QForum was created ahead of the 2012 Federal election. The beneficiary of QForum is the Liberal National Party of Queensland.

You are listed on the invitation as the "host" of this event.

You also spoke as a second QForum event, at which attendees were asked to donate up to \$22,000 each.

Given these facts, do you maintain that you had "no role raising funds for the 2012 LNP State Election".