

**“Victims of Financial Fraud” (Incorporated)**  
**PRESS RELEASE 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013**  
**Regarding: Stephen Jones, MP, abuse of Government**  
**Instrumentalities**

The “Victims of Financial Fraud Inc.” (V.O.F.F. Inc) strongly condemn Member for Throsby Mr Stephen Jones for the political stunt he perpetrated on innocent victims of transnational fraud at a meeting held Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013, at the Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto.

Mr Jones has repeatedly and publically blamed the victims for their losses due to fraud, despite compelling and overwhelming evidence of transnational criminals ‘taking advantage of the vulnerabilities of the Australian financial system’. Those are the words of the Parliamentary Joint Committee investigating the Trio Capital fraud. Yet Mr. Jones refuses to acknowledge this in his public comments.

Due to his repeated public claims, more than fifty individual members of V.O.F.F. Inc have proceeded with a defamation action against Mr Jones. Letters to that effect were hand delivered commencing Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013.

V.O.F.F. Inc on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2013 called for a meeting with Mr Jones expressly to discuss the defamation action. Mr Jones offered a meeting to be held Wednesday 4pm 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013, and to be attended also by Member for Cunningham, Ms Sharon Bird.

At no stage, did Mr Jones indicate that any other party would be in attendance.

However upon arrival, there were in attendance four unidentified members of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC). Mr. Jones indicated that he had invited them to attend this meeting.

V.O.F.F. Inc strongly objected as grossly inappropriate to the presence of ASIC at this meeting to discuss our claims of defamation against Mr Jones. We also strongly object to the unprofessional way in which V.O.F.F. Inc. were not provided prior notice by Mr Jones of ASIC’s intended presence.

Mr. Paul Matters objected to their presence, and requested ASIC leave the meeting. Mr Jones refused this request, and subsequently Mr Jones and Ms Bird were asked to again reconsider. V.O.F.F. Inc. attendees left the room and waited outside while this was supposedly discussed. At the scheduled conclusion of the meeting at 5pm, the MP’s and ASIC simply left the room without further discussion with V.O.F.F. Inc.

V.O.F.F. Inc. strongly condemn Stephen Jones for the following:

- The blatant politicisation of ASIC by drawing them without notification to a meeting with V.O.F.F. Inc expressly related to claims of defamation by Mr Jones.
- This is an abuse of Government instrumentalities by a Parliamentary Member, and the Government is also condemned for allowing this abuse to occur.

V.O.F.F. Inc. will not be intimidated or bullied by the Government or it's MP's. It is also offensive to Mr Jones Throsby constituents for a Government MP to use such a tactic so close to a Federal Election.

We call on Mr Jones to be held to account, and rebuked by Parliament in the strongest possible terms.

V.O.F.F. Inc. are required to receive a full and un-equivocal apology both in public and to the House of Representatives for this blatant abuse of Government instrumentality.

This displays Mr Jones ongoing arrogance and insensitivity to the Trio Capital victims, many of whom live in his electorate. Many of those are steelworkers, miners, unionists and retirees. All so called 'ALP heartland' voters.

VOFF Inc state that the Governments so called 'ALP Values' which they say addresses social equality and protects workers and their families is but a myth, and simply cynical political spin.

Mr Jones is in denial regarding the role of APRA and ASIC and their negligent prudential oversight by allowing these criminals to infiltrate the financial system and execute this fraud, DESPITE the many missed signals. A Parliamentary Joint Committee slammed their poor performance.

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