

Vickie Chapman MP

Deputy State Liberal Leader
Shadow Attorney-General

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Did Weatherill break his own Code of Conduct?

The State Liberals say Adelaide entrepreneur Shane Yeend's allegations of verbal abuse by Jay Weatherill would put the Premier in breach of his own Code of Conduct if true.

"Jay Weatherill has had 24 hours to deny the substance of Mr. Yeend's allegations – he has conspicuously failed to do so," said Deputy State Liberal Leader Vickie Chapman.

"Jay Weatherill's alleged abuse of Mr. Yeend is both highly distasteful and totally inappropriate behavior from a Premier of the state.

"The alleged abusive language would also be in contravention of the Premier's own Ministerial Code of Conduct and highlights the fact the Premier must decide how to deal with his own misconduct."

The Code contains the following provisions:

- 1.1 Ministers must accept standards of conduct of the highest order.
- 1.1 Ministers are expected to behave according to the highest standards of constitutional and personal conduct in the performance of their duties.
- 2.2 Ministers must ensure that their personal conduct is consistent with the dignity, reputation and integrity of Parliament.
- 2.3 A Minister shall not wantonly and recklessly attack the reputation of any other person.
- 1.1 The Premier must take responsibility for his or her Ministers and deal with their conduct in a manner that retains the confidence of the public.

"The Weatherill Government's collective foul mouth shows that after 15 years in office it has become extremely arrogant," said Ms. Chapman.

I remind the Premier that last year in Parliament I asked him in whether: ***'people who are going about their work in the employment of this government should behave respectfully and decently and should not behave in an aggressive or threatening manner to anyone...'***

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (15:00): ***Yes, I think that's good advice. I think it's advice that should be heeded by members on this side of the house and, of course, all of our relevant staff and officers.*** (Hansard 23 February 2017)