

# WHEN PRIVACY GOES PUBLIC

News Review

Privacy was no longer a defence for the Deputy Prime Minister after his now-pregnant partner was given "plum jobs" in two ministerial offices, and her boss Barnaby Joyce was forced out of his job briefly to fight a by-election two months ago.

Her yearly salary was reported at about \$190,000 from public funds, as two jobs were found (or created) in quick succession with fellow National Party ministers in Canberra. Prime Minister Turnbull deflected questions about his knowledge of it, also claiming that it was "private". Other vague words have been used like "appropriate" and "above board". The Canberra press gallery is now trawling official records for any expenses-paid trips and such, by her with the Deputy PM as part of official duties. He has refused to say whether the affair began while the woman was on his paid staff.

As party Leader, MP Joyce's private actions are not consistent with his public stance of traditional Christian values, particularly in debate on same-sex marriage in December. Opposition MPs closed ranks on privacy of the woman involved, but had a bet each way by directing fire at the Deputy PM instead.

Greens MP Adam Bandt condemned the first revelations in the Daily Telegraph last week as "despicable", but he still used them to attack MP Joyce for a double-standard.

"I'm no fan of Barnaby, and he's a hypocrite for opposing equal marriage on the basis of family values, and putting the LGBTI community through the wringer while leading a different life himself," he said.

MP Joyce once argued that a vaccine against a lethal virus causing cervical cancer could give 12-year-old girls "a licence to be promiscuous." The virus can be sexually transmitted.

During a parliamentary debate on marriage equality on 7 December, MP Joyce first acknowledged that he was separated from his wife and four children. He alluded cryptically to his personal morality, covering himself against the unpublicised but well-known fact of his continuing affair around Parliament.

He admitted that he "did not come to this debate pretending to be any form of saint," but he opposed same-sex marriage and claimed that traditional marriage between a man and a woman had "stood the test of time".

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## **Past comments haunt Barnaby Joyce**

[news.com.au](http://news.com.au) February 8, 2018:47am

Remarks about promiscuity and upholding family values are coming back to haunt the Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce after his affair with a now-pregnant former staff member in his office became public.

The latest comments proving problematic for the conservative MP were made during a 2006 debate about a breakthrough cervical-cancer vaccine.

Gardasil is a treatment which protects young women from the virus that causes 70 per cent of cervical cancers, During discussion about the roll out of a national immunisation campaign, MP Joyce expressed fears it would encourage young women to be "promiscuous".

"There might be an overwhelming backlash from people saying 'don't you dare put something out there that gives my 12-year-old daughter a license to be promiscuous'," he said circuitously.

Mr Joyce argued against making the vaccine available because of the “social implications” and the implication of permissiveness around sex.

His frequent extolling of the values of traditional marriage during the recent same-sex marriage debate has seen him labelled a hypocrite.

Critics have taken joy in pointing out Mr Joyce spent years fighting to exclude same-sex couples from marriages arguing that it was a sacred institution between a man and woman, only to throw away his own 24-year union.

Again talking about his daughters, Mr Joyce told a 2011 Australian Christian Lobby conference: “The best protection for those girls is that they get themselves into a secure relationship with a loving husband.”

### **PUBLICITY HAS ‘HURT’**

Asked about his perceived hypocrisy during a prickly interview on ABC’s 7.30 Wednesday night, Mr Joyce said he was “hurt” that the truth had come out about his failed marriage.

“Just because my marriage didn’t work out doesn’t mean I disregard what marriages are about. I acknowledge that I failed,” he said.

“I’m also incredibly hurt that private issues get dragged out in the public areas ... I think most people would say those things should stay in the realm of your private business.”

Mr Joyce then came out with a phrase that was repeated throughout the interview.

In the seven-minute discussion with interview Leigh Sales (ABC) that focused on the affair, he argued to “keep private matters private” five times, and used a variation of “private matters”, including “private affairs”, “private issues”, and “private life” a total of 18 times.

He admitted that the breakdown of his marriage was “one of the greatest failures” of his life, but said that it did not make him “terribly unusual”.

### **NO COMMENT ON PAY ISSUE**

When asked if it was accurate that the relationship started when his partner was a member of his paid staff, Mr Joyce told Sales he didn’t want to go through “a salami slicing” of his private life.

“They have FOied (Freedom of Information) everything to do with my travel and nothing has been turned up because there’s nothing there.”

While Mr Joyce argued his relationship with former staffer Vikki Campion was off-limits, his wife has gone public, saying the affair had been on for “months and months.” Natalie Joyce said she and the couple’s four daughters were “devastated”.

“Our family has had to be shared during Barnaby’s political career and it was with trust that we let campaign and office staff into our home and into our lives,” she told the Daily Telegraph.

“Naturally we feel deceived and hurt by the actions of Barnaby and the staff member involved.”

Ms Campion is reportedly due to give birth in April.

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## **P.M. TIGHT-LIPPED ON ‘PLUM JOBS’**

PRIME Minister Malcolm Turnbull reportedly had a hand in the creation of two plum jobs for the now-pregnant partner of Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce.

Earlier this week news.com.au revealed former media adviser Vikki Campion was moved to Nationals Senator Matt Canavan’s office [after Mr Turnbull was informed of her and Mr Joyce’s relationship](#).

Now the Daily Telegraph reports a second role was created in the Nationals Chief Whip’s office, with the PM’s authorisation.

According to the *Telegraph*, after Ms Campion's position in Senator Canavan's office ended, a new job was created for a media adviser in Damian Drum's office, despite the fact he already had one.

The Prime Minister's office is believed to have signed off on both moves, and according to the ABC, intervened to ensure Mr Joyce and Ms Campion were distanced professionally.

The development comes amid reports the expecting couple are living rent-free in a town-house owned by a multi-millionaire businessman in Armidale, according to *The Australian*. Mr Turnbull yesterday refused to comment on his involvement in or knowledge of Ms Campion's employment and her affair with the Nationals Leader saying he didn't want to add to public comment on "these private matters".

"I don't want to add to the discussion about it."

Mr Turnbull did not discuss the appointment of Ms Campion to an "invented" job in Senator Canavan's office, and a senior minister Christopher Pyne defended the move.

A "high-salary" digital and social media position was reportedly created for Ms Campion in the office of Nationals Senator Matt Canavan — who previously served as Mr Joyce's chief of staff — and wasn't filled after she left, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

Mr Pyne defended the appointment, saying the position was "entirely appropriate".

"I'm not in the gun on this story and I think it's highly unlikely anything untoward occurred," he told *Nine's Today*. "That's a matter that Matt Canavan needs to respond to, not me."

The *Telegraph* on Friday cited a spokeswoman for Senator Canavan, who was resources minister at the time, as saying Ms Campion was "suitably qualified" for the role given her work history. There is no suggestion otherwise.

Mr Pyne said, "maybe that's the job that Matt Canavan wanted in his office at that time".

Details of Ms Campion's government employment follow the revelation this week that the 33-year-old is now in a private relationship with Mr Joyce, 50.

<http://www.news.com.au/finance/work/at-work/questions-over-barnaby-joyces-former-staffer-vikki-campions-next-appointment/news-story/f6376e527148d57b2197e00c155e6979>

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## **Jobs for lover all above board: Cormann**

Finance Minister Mathias Cormann denied any impropriety in the employment of a woman who is now the Deputy Prime Minister's pregnant partner – based on reports from his staff.

"All of my advice is that everything was absolutely above board," he qualified in relation to Barnaby Joyce, the Deputy PM and National Party Leader.

Senator Cormann denied that any special jobs had been created for a minister's partner.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull also denied knowing of any inappropriate spending of public funds relating to the affair.

The Finance Minister's department oversees the hiring of political staff, including MP Joyce's pregnant partner in jobs in two different offices of National Party ministers. Decisions on staff matters of National Party ministers are made by the party.

Ms Campion, a former journalist, was initially a media advisor in the deputy prime minister's office before moving to the office of another NP minister, Matt Canavan.

When Senator Canavan stepped down from the front bench awaiting a High Court ruling on his citizenship status, she shifted to the office of the Nationals whip Damien Drum.

Media reports suggested that Prime Minister Turnbull was involved in approving those two appointments, and Labor is pressuring him to explain what happened.

But Senator Cormann says everything was by the book. "She's clearly somebody who is qualified to do the job and she was hired in certain positions based on merit and there's nothing really further to add," he told Sky News on Sunday. 11 February 2018

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/jobs-for-barnaby-joyce-partner-all-above-board-cormann>

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# The public's right to know: debate

10 February 2018

The front-page news that Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce is expecting a child with his former employee, has sparked debate about whether politicians' private lives should be made public.

On Wednesday The Daily Telegraph published a story about the 50-year-old Nationals leader and father of four being in a relationship with his former media adviser Vikki Campion, 33. He later [appeared on the ABC's 7.30 program](#) and defended his right to privacy, asking what "political purpose" the story served.

"I can't quite fathom why a pregnant lady walking across the road deserves a front page," he said of the photographs of Ms Campion.

"It's a private matter and I don't think it helps me, I don't think it helps my family, I don't think it helps anybody in the future for us to start making this part of a public discussion," he said.

Mr Joyce acknowledged that his 24-year-long marriage to estranged wife Natalie had ended last year.

## PRIVACY AND PUBLICITY COLLIDE

Dr Jason Sternberg, a senior lecturer in journalism and digital media at Queensland University of Technology, told SBS News that while the distinction between public and private is fuzzy, when personal views influence public policy, it should be fair game.

"The public has a right to know in situations where the politician's behaviour runs counter to policy issues that they have explicitly spoken about," he said.

"When politicians make very, very strident and dogmatic statements about issues of personal morality, [same-sex marriage, which Mr Joyce opposed] ... then I think that hypocrisy deserves to be exposed."

Mr Joyce said on Wednesday: "Just because my marriage didn't work out doesn't mean I disregard what marriages are about."

Some politicians including Labor leader Bill Shorten leapt to Mr Joyce's defence over the matter. "I'm certainly not going to stand in judgement of other people's private lives," he said. But others disagreed.

A former parliamentarian and long-time rival [Tony Windsor](#) said the Mr Joyce should have expected some scrutiny.

"He is entitled to his private life, but in politics, (if) you start to throw stones, you get stones thrown back at you," he said.

Gordon Farrer, a journalism lecturer at Melbourne's RMIT University, said there could've been a very different outcome to Mr Joyce's by-election, had the allegations been public knowledge.

*By Andrea Nierhoff, SBS*

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-public-has-a-right-to-know-barnaby-joyce-story-sparks-debate>