

Letter to Ken Wyatt MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians

17 June 2021

Attention: Ken Wyatt MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in light of recent developments to ask whether there is a possibility of reconciling our differences, in order to stop the divisive hidden agenda impacting Australians.

I have been committed to Aboriginal people for a long time. Since leaving the Wallaga Lake Aboriginal community in my early 20s with my infant son, I have specialised and written about Aboriginal community issues.

You would be aware Anthropologist, Professor Peter Sutton and Archaeologist, Dr Keryn Walshe have published a new book, Farmers or Hunter Gatherers? The Dark Emu Debate.

In the Saturday Age magazine cover story the journalist claims the book debunks Pascoe's mistruths and the story provided numerous examples of the way in which Dark Emu was, 'riddled with errors of fact, selective quotations, selective use of evidence, and exaggeration of weak evidence.'

Professor Sutton said he was outraged that schools used Dark Emu as a textbook.

You might recall you first met me in 1988 in Perth as a child when my mother worked in Aboriginal Affairs. In contrast, Bruce Pascoe identified as an Aboriginal person in 2008, the year the SBS documentary series First Australians was released. It claimed Pascoe was an Aboriginal person. It was directed by Rachel Perkins and co-starred Bruce Pascoe and Marcia Langton. Nonetheless, you called Pascoe your friend.

On 21 November 2019 which was the day you publicly defended Pascoe, I met with your Senior Advisor, Jarrod Lomas and his partner who is also an Advisor in your office.

Jarrod informed he and his partner were both Turnbull supporters and strangely disclosed they almost stopped Scott Morrison becoming Prime Minister.

I proceeded to outline the reasons it was important to provide the Senior Advisory Group to the Voice with an Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and an Australian Federal Police (AFP) briefing.

I raised this during your first senior advisory meeting.

Marcia Langton advised me to send her an email about it so she could organise it. I emailed Ms Langton who consequently threatened to sack me.

I had requested the AFP and ACC briefing as I had received a redacted version of an Indigenous Task Force report, and the ACC Task Force operated from 2007 to 2014. It visited 145 Indigenous communities, 58 regional towns and held almost 2000 stakeholder meetings. It found widespread abuse of power and connections with organised crime within Aboriginal organisations confirming, 'Individuals in positions of authority have engaged in child abuse, violence and fraud'.

Your Senior Advisor (acting on your instructions) asked me to visit Kempsey to meet NSW Nationals Minister Pavey and to introduce her to local Aboriginal families and communities.

I thought it was an odd request, as Minister Pavey has been the Kempsey State Member for a long time and therefore she should know Aboriginal families and communities.

I travelled to Kempsey on a number of occasions, at my own expense.

I also arranged for Senator Bragg to be hosted for a day in Kempsey.

I find it profoundly disturbing the Senator supports the Uluru Statement because he heard the Kempsey Aboriginal community people say they had not been consulted and they expressed their vehement opposition to the Uluru Statement. They requested their own Voice, economic independence and homeownership. As you would be aware, Kempsey has a large Aboriginal population.

Aboriginal community members in Kempsey have called Crime Stoppers to report child abuse, only to be harassed two days later by the accused associates.

It is obvious to me, there is a serious problem.

I have been concerned about the Voice going ahead because I think it will have devastating consequences and entrench corruption in Aboriginal communities which has not been addressed.

This is despite the fact a detailed Report has been written and published by Crimes Commission.

Minister Pavey also informed me, Kempsey police officer numbers were limited and at times there are not enough in the area to respond to domestic violence calls. At this time, Kemsey gaol had a least one stabbing incident per week which was said to be a result of outlaw motorcycle gang members placed in Kempsey prison. The police have been occupied managing these incidents.

Kempsey Gaol is supposed to be a low security prison. Pastors and other senior Aboriginal people have told me young men are being raped in gaol and as a result, they request to be transferred away from their families to other prisons.

I am confident you will agree this is disappointing and should not be allowed to continue.

Kempsey community members also disclosed there is corruption in their communities and abuse of power from the leaders promoting the Uluru Statement is common.

Many concerned Aboriginal community members also tragically informed me about South Kempsey children being trafficked as child prostitutes.

I was told good men will not go to a particular area because minors proposition themselves for sex.

There were also other indications of a deeper problem. Within a short period of time there had been six child suicides. I have experienced child suicide as a common symptom when children have been abused and groomed for sex.

When I visited South Kempsey, which is an area where there is a large Aboriginal population, there were homes destroyed from firebombing.

I understood the importance of the disclosures and emphasise they need to be taken seriously, as people do not feel protected from intimidation and threats. They feel it is risking their lives to make complaints and there is evidence to suggest they probably are at risk.

Such allegations are not new.

My mother ran for Parliament for the Australian Labor Party (ALP) in 1998 for the Federal seat of Lynn in an attempt to address the same problem, as senior elders and staff members had also disclosed paedophilia, child prostitution and abuse of power had been occurring by the same leaders when in 1997, she was the CEO of the Aboriginal medical service in Foster, Gloucester and Taree.

She also invited Uncle Warren Mundine, then Head of the ALP to visit Taree and speak with the elders in order to understand the serious nature of these disclosures.

Uncle Warren encouraged my mother to run for Parliament.

I also informed Jarrod Lomas and his partner of the reasons Bruce Pascoe's Dark Emu should not be supported.

I advised them, more than once senior elders had requested I advocate against him on their behalf.

Jarrod gave me no notice you were about to give a media interview and claim Pascoe as a friend and both defended his unsubstantiated Aboriginal heritage and his factually incorrect claims Aborigines were not hunter gatherers but farmers, living in cottages with animal pens in settlements of 1000 people.

I developed a close relationship with your wife and was disappointed this friendship has been affected.

In fact, in 2014 Pascoe inferred Aboriginal society was communist, 'It's not the difference between capitalism and communism; it's the difference between capitalism and Aboriginalism', another mistruth.

Pascoe has been unable to substantiate his claim to Aboriginal descent and his genealogical records (over 3,000 documents) confirm all his ancestors are of English descent.

Pascoe has admitted his maternal great grandmother, who he had once claimed was his Aboriginal ancestor, was English however, he has refused to nominate which of his ancestors he believes makes him an Aboriginal person.

Both Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre deny Pascoe is a member of their tribe.

They claim he is a fake.

Some of the women who came to Parliament House with me in February 2020, including Shirley Foster (nee Brown) and Selina Campbell are both senior Yuin women who met with you.

They are a member of the other tribe Pascoe claims to belong to.

Aunty Shirley's late husband was a well known Aboriginal Yuin leader and the first Chair of the NSW State Land Council.

They know Pascoe is a faux Aboriginal person and supported me against their brother and Max Harrison (who is also my son's great uncle) who supports Pascoe and his lies.

Another elder, Calita Murray, whose idea was to visit Parliament House together, originally advised me to take a stand against Pascoe, as she was fearful Pascoe was attempting to extend the Yuin boundary past the NSW border into Victoria, in an effort to take over Gunai Kurnai territory of which she is a Native Title claimant.

Aunty Calita is also my son's grand auntie and she has known me since I was 11 when her late husband worked with my mother in Canberra.

Her daughter also lived with us when I was a child.

Aunty Calita encouraged me to accept your invitation to become a member of the Senior Advisory Council to The Voice. I told her at the time I was sceptical I could make a difference, but she encouraged me to accept, 'if you are not there who else will speak for us?'

She repeated this to Senator Molan at Parliament House and explained she felt responsible for the backlash against me.

In 2011, Dr Carolyn Briggs was Elder of the Year.

She is amongst the most senior Boonwurrung leaders who encouraged me to stand against Pascoe.

After making her position against Pascoe known, Dr Briggs was bullied by NITV journalists claiming it was her duty to support Pascoe's false Aboriginal heritage claims.

I had to contact NITV and request the journalists leave her alone. Many others have been contacted and as a result, I have the majority of Aboriginal Australian support.

As you will be aware, integrity is important to our people.

I felt betrayed by you especially given I supported you during the 2016 federal election, paid expenses including flights, car hire and accommodation for a colleague and former Chief Inspector of Police to volunteer with you during the election.

I also wrote a personal recommendation to the Prime Minister recommending you for Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and I warned you Marcia Langton did not want you in this position.

After you were appointed, I drove to Canberra to give you a book given to me by a significant elder and I organised for you to receive an invitation by the most NSW senior Aboriginal men who had invited you to a Corroboree at Wagga Wagga.

I was disappointing no one in your office responded to the invitation and/or thanked the elders.

These elders interpreted this as disrespectful behaviour and a sign you did not care about Aboriginal people on the ground.

I have suffered financial hardship and reputational damage due to your inference that I was not collaborative or cooperative.

I accepted an invitation to appear on the Andrew Bolt show afterwards and I was consequently threatened by Ms Langton, Morry Schwartz and her associates, after the appearance who I discovered had been planning a coup and had betrayed me.

For instance, Morry Schwartz failed to inform me he was publishing Pascoe's book Salt.

You did not call or email me to ask for my version of events.

I have since discovered Ms Langton was a senior member of the Communist Party and ASIO conducted an investigation into her activities (see: https://www.theunshackled.net/australian-politics/is-marcia-langton-still-a-marxist-why-hasnt-anyone-asked/).

Ms Langton had told me she is not allowed entry into the United States.

Your support of Pascoe and Ms Langton have caused me harm.

Langton acted with malice towards me and contacted my clients, colleagues and friends, telling them I was mad and intimidating. Her efforts were successful

Ms Langton rang journalists, including the editor of the Age.

I am a mother with a 23 year old son, I am a former NSW Crown Prosecutor who was involved in some of the most important historical child sexual assault and domestic violence trials. I have two degrees and a postgraduate qualification.
Targeted attacks have been designed to destroy my reputation.
You are aware I am dyslexic and could not read and write until I was 14 years old.
I have had to overcome many challenges to succeed.
I believe in the potential of all Australians.
I stand for a united Australia. I am fortunate I have lived in Aboriginal communities.
Therefore, I am seeking a written apology and a public apology from you and you arrange a private meeting for me with the Prime Minister to discuss an alternative to the Voice.
25 per cent of the funds given to the Uluru Statement process should be allocated to public benevolent institutions such as mine so we are able to fund consultations with Aboriginal communities across the country alongside the wider Australian community on alternatives.
To date, there has been no funding allocated to an alternative.
All Aboriginal people deserve to be invited to become meaningfully involved in the Voice consultancy process.
I have made videos with NSW and SA Aboriginal community members who have expressed a similar view (see www.onevoiceaustralia.org website).
I believe and have hope that you will act for the benefit of all Australians.
Minister, with due respect, regardless of all that has happened I still believe that I have something to offer this nation and our people.
Yours sincerely,

Chair,

Josephine Cashman



The Dutton Letters: The State-Sanctioned Pascoe Crimes

25 October 2021

Josephine Cashman

11 December 2019

Dear Minister Dutton,

Re: Aboriginal Identity Fraud Thank you for your valuable community service before you entered politics. As a former criminal prosecutor, I understand the vital service the police offer communities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for defending Australian values. I know it is not always popular. I want you to know many Australians value your brave contribution and appreciate your commitment. I have always been impressed by your courage and determination to serve The Australian people. You are inspiring. Do you remember the time I spoke to you in Arnhem Land when I accompanied Prime Minister, Tony Abbott on a visit as a member of the Indigenous Advisory Council which uncle Warren Mundine chaired? I remember your moving address.

My name is Josephine Cashman. I am a Warrimay woman whose traditional land stretches from Port Stephens to the New South Wales mid north coast. I married into a south coast Yuin family whose traditional land stretches from below Sydney to the Victorian border. My son, Joseph is a Yuin man and my ex partner is a Yuin traditional owner. I am also proud of my colonial heritage and wish to emphasise the fact most Aboriginal people are proud of our *hunter gather* heritage together with our creation stories and our ceremonial ancient culture. Our people lived in harmony with nature for thousands of years which is something worthy of celebration and admiration. I recommend you watch the Bolt Report interviews with eminent Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Peter O'Neil and others who have criticised the historical incorrectness of Pascoe's false claims (including plagiarism). I also recommend you watch the two separate Bolt interviews with Jacinta Price and myself.

For context I also refer you to relevant documents I will send under separate cover. I assure you there are many Aboriginal community people who have been upset by Pascoe and they have had enough of him and others like him. I am writing on behalf of my Aboriginal communities calling for urgent reform so this outrageous circumstance can never happen again. I recently had the privilege to meet the Hon Pat Conaghan, the Member for Cowper. He is also a former police officer and he understands the community complexities embedded in our region. I am committed to resolving it. I am writing to you in your capacity as the Minister responsible for the AFP. I request immediate assistance and the referral of a matter which is politically contentious for the government and/or the Operations Monitoring Centre (OMC).

I am calling for an investigation into dishonesty offences pursuant of Section 29, 134-5, Criminal Code Commonwealth (1995). This section relates to a significant matter of public interest and it is relevant to the

Aboriginality claims of Bruce Pascoe as it relates to the financial benefit he has derived as a result of his false identity claims. Aboriginal AncestryBruce Pascoe is not an Aboriginal person which has been established by a comprehensive genealogy search and the three Aboriginal groups Pascoe claims to belong. All three Aboriginal groups have rejected his Aboriginal heritage. A Yuin letter has been acquired rejecting Pascoe (attached separately). Jason Briggs, a Victorian traditional owner has also rejected Pascoe's Aboriginal heritage claim (attached separately). His mother has been fighting to stop Pascoe for a long time and she has suffered. Tasmanian traditional owners have rejected Pascoe's claim in writing (Andrew Bolt can verify). Briggs is in dispute with the Andrew's government concerning money being given to organisations without checking Aboriginality claims (see attached Briggs email).

Financial Advantage

Pascoe has been appointed as an Aboriginal professor at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). The university receives federal funding to support Pascoe's appointment and his associated affairs. UTS has rejected my request for an investigation into Pascoe's false identity claims and his attempts to alter Australian explorer history records and Aboriginal cultural heritage. I have threatened to burn my 2018 Alumni Law Award during a ceremony out the front of the building if nothing is done about it.

Saturday Paper and Black Books

Morry Swartz, owner of the *Saturday Paper* and *Black Books Inc* has recently published Pascoe's new book, *Salt*. I believe the *Saturday Paper* may have won a government grant recently which makes the recent non factual article about Pascoe more distasteful. Pascoe's relative lives in Kempsey and runs a bush food business which has appropriated a Yuin sacred totem the *Umbarra* or black duck for its logo. My Kempsey relatives do not know of this Pascoe relative and we know who we belong to in our communities. The *Dark Emu Exposed* group has been tracking Pascoe's financial links and more (attached separately).

The ABC

The ABC receives federal funding for Aboriginal programs and this includes the production company for the planned Pascoe documentary. Despite Aboriginal community objections and the outcry from Aboriginal representatives like myself and Jacinta Price, I believe the ABC intends to go ahead and produce and screen the Pascoe documentary which promotes inaccurate Australian historical facts and misrepresenting Aboriginal culture. Many ABC journalists have publicly supported Pascoe's false claims and I believe everyone who have supported this fraudulent behaviour deserve to be reprimanded.

Commonwealth fraud

Commonwealth fraud is a serious matter. Not only can it constitute a criminal offence, it also reduces desperately needed funds in Aboriginal communities for delivering housing and other valuable community services. It also undermines the integrity of the government because communities tend to blame the federal government for its lack of action. The Australian community rightly expects entities and officials to acknowledge and fulfill their responsibilities as stewards of public funds to make every effort possible to protect valuable public resources.

Public interest

Given the number of grants received by Pascoe and his associates, I believe a referral to the AFP is appropriate as a matter of urgency in the public interest. As this fraudulent scheme appears to involve instances of *obtaining property by deception,* I also believe his franchise is worthy of scrutiny. Certainly selling books on false pretences is fraudulent and *Dark Emu* book sale proceeds have been significant. The fact the childrens book version, *Young Dark Emu* has been published and is being distributed to Australian infant and primary schools is profoundly disturbing to many Australians.

Aboriginal identity

In tandem I also seek your support on the question of government reforms concerning Aboriginal identity. 'Do you identify as an ATSI person?' is failing Aboriginal communities. I invite you to assist me in collaboration with the Attorney General and the Prime Minister to develop a national strategy for establishing a register for Aboriginal people. I suggest a panel composed of traditional owners, on the ground elders, government experts and others to examine the most efficient manner to achieve identifying Aboriginal people. We are fed up with fake claims. Once the procedure has been designed and agreed upon, it should be easy to register an Aboriginal birth because it could be linked to existing Australian birth registration and native title genealogical records. It is doable.

Yours sincerely

Josephine

Following my letter, please see the documents: Aboriginal groups:

- 1. Jason Brigg Boonwurrung (below)
- 2. Joe Brown Yuin (attached)
- 3. Micheal Mansel, Andrew Bolt and this is public

Please note, Genealogist Jan Holland (from the Dark Emu Exposed website) confirmed he is not of Aboriginal descent. This has been verified by another expert. **Bushfood businesses:**

 Pascoe's old Pty Ltd company, Gurundgi Munjie, then established, a non-listed Public Company called Black Duck Foods Ltd, family members are directors (no Yuin), registered in October 2019. https://www.facebook.com/blackduckfoods/Advertising for a manager, which it looks like they may be funding with a grant from First Australians Capital Ltd - (attached)

Publishers:

- 1. Grants, Magabala Books for Dark Emu publication, received:
- Australia Council, Commonwealth Government
- Department Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WA Government
- Shire of Broome, WA (attached, on page 2)

Funding

- Pascoe Publishing, 2013-2014 \$20,000 for east roots and leaves (attached 3 screenshot)
- Screen Australia, funded Pascoe to purchase a \$7000 (Attached 4 screenshot). See source reports at https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/annual-reports
 & https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/annual-reports

Other benefits:

- First Nations Australia Writers Network, http://www.fnawn.com.au/ and Uncle Bruce is a member http://www.fnawn.com.au/category/blog/"Membership is open to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander storytellers, writers, poets, playwrights and editors. To be eligible for membership, you need to be able to provide proof that you are: a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which they live."
 http://www.fnawn.com.au/fnawn-membership/ Pascoe is a member, completed a form similar (attached).
- And much more

23 January 2020

Dear Minister Dutton,

I appreciate the fact your office forwarded my request for an investigation to the AFP, concerning Bruce Pascoe and his Aboriginal ancestry claims. Unfortunately the AFP has closed the possibility of an investigation which is disappointing, especially for the voiceless Aboriginal people on the ground. The AFP says it cannot determine the fact Pascoe has broken federal laws: 'no Commonwealth offences have been identified'.

This is odd because Pascoe has been unable to prove his Aboriginal ancestry which is a legal requirement. In fact, this means inventing Aboriginal ancestors is acceptable to the Commonwealth government. It is worrying because there is a link between false identity claims and Aboriginal community dysfunction. This fact might help explain the reason why nothing ever changes. False identity claims dwell in all realms of society. Pascoe has benefited financially from claiming Aboriginal ancestry he has been unable to prove.

This is despite the fact:

- Comprehensive genealogical records have traced his family on both sides and can be forwarded to you. They
 have been compiled by a professional genealogist who conducted a thorough investigation. The report proves
 all of Pascoe's ancestors were of English descent. If there had been a scandal as Pascoe infers, it would have
 been impossible to cover up in the community;he claims to be descended from Boonwurrung in Victoria, Yuin
 in NSW and tribes in Tasmania. His claims have been rejected by the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council in
 Victoria, Yuin representatives on the south coast of NSW and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council;
- he has not been able to name his Aboriginal ancestors which is disturbing and/or provide proof of his
 Aboriginal identity;he claims his Aboriginal ancestry comes from one of his two maternal great grandmothers,
 who he says was a Boonwurrung woman, only to admit later, 'she was in fact, born in England'. She was born in
 England according to genealogy records;
- he has claimed to be descended from five Aboriginal tribes or groups in five States, including ancestors on the Lockhart River he had previously described as white;he says the five different groups of ancestors would, 'fall below the line' of some 'blood quantum' testing. I do not know what that means!
- I am confident experts would be able to unravel the complexities, if required. After all, this is the 21st century.
 Why is Pascoe's Aboriginal identity claim acceptable legally? I do not accept he is an Aboriginal person and his
 books Dark Emu and Young Dark Emu are disturbing for Aboriginal people, especially the voiceless people
 living in communities on the ground. You know these people are suffering. I argue a false identity claim is one
 reason why nothing has changed on the ground, despite huge amounts of government money being thrown at
 it!

The AFP obviously had a narrow brief. It would appear it accepts Pascoe's Aboriginal ancestry claim, despite the evidence not upholding the possibility. This is not to mention his claim Aboriginal people were not hunter and gatherers (with no evidence and worse). Please read the ABC letter. Pascoe makes absurd false history claims, without evidence and he distorts the facts. Unfortunately, distorting facts and attempting to change history are probably legal! Misrepresenting Aboriginal cultural heritage is unacceptable and the children's book is being distributed to pre school and primary school children, while the ABC continues to promote his books.

Is it not a breach of federal law to make a false claim to the government to gain financial benefit? Why is the government doing nothing to help Aboriginal people protect against false identity claims? While it is not a new problem, it is a growing problem in urban, regional and remote communities and Aboriginal people are fed up with it.

I need more information so I can refer this to the Attorney General and request a tightening of federal laws to protect

Aboriginal people, so it can never happen again. It is a sad fact this Pascoe affair has been allowed to go so far.

I will be in Canberra the first week Parliament returns in early February, accompanied by Jacinta Price. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you please.

Yours sincerely,

Josephine Cashman

For further information

- 1. See the hard copy here
- 2. Detailed analysis see here

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