

Mr Quentin McDermott  
ABC  
Sydney  
12th October 2007

Dear Quentin,

In response to your questions as to the meeting between Mr Howard and Mr Hales, I wish to make the following statements:

Bruce Hales has been under intense pressure from the press and Television and radio for interviews.

Mr Howard comes to Bennelong regularly.

In days past, Mr Hales would greet and shake hands with Mr Howard in Eastwood Square. Mr Hales first met Mr Howard in 1989. He has never met him socially nor at business or fundraising functions.

I was in Canberra and I greeted Mr Howard and enquired from him whether Mr Hales could meet him for a short discussion. Mr Hales had agreed knowing the opportunities to meet Mr Howard these days were very scarce. There was no agenda for the meeting and nothing critical was discussed only economic matters in general.

Mr Howard is always interested in how small business is faring, and there was a brief discussion about TV shows concerning the Brethren. Mr Howard did not approve of the public vilification of the Brethren as a Christian church.

Mention was made of the Senate enquiry having been defeated twice with Liberal and Labor support, however public attacks were continuing.

No commitments or promises as to campaign support were discussed or agreed upon. There was general talk regarding interest rates. There was no discussion or mention whatsoever of Willmac Enterprises or the AFP.

I can confirm that I have never deposited any money into Willmac Enterprises and to suggest otherwise is a complete fallacy.

Regards,

Warwick John