



20 April 2017

Public Statement Of Chinese Australian Services Society Ltd

Re: Article Published By The Australian On 17 April 2017 Titled “Stop Being American’s Deputy Sheriff, says Overseas Chinese Society ‘End US alliance, pivot to China’ ”

Referring to an article written by a reporter of The Australian, Ms Primrose Riordan, about our organisation, the Chinese Australian Services Society Ltd, with the above-mentioned head line which appeared on Monday, 17 April 2017 in The Australian, we categorically and totally reject that notion. The reporter omitted information we provided to her and also failing to disclose the origin of some of her information where she quoted from to suit her story.

Primrose approached our organisation for her article and as a good Australian NGO, we gracefully assisted and openly provided information to her. However, what appeared on the print media on Monday, 17 April 2017 was a great disappointment as the article portray that our organisation is under the “soft” influence of the Chinese Government.

We told her that “as a conscientious and active Australian organisation, we often contribute views of our constituents to public inquiries held by the Governments. We have also been invited by the Senate to put in submissions on certain matters. In this regard, when the Federal Government called for public submissions on the future foreign affairs policy for Australia, an important issue for Australia, we held discussion sessions and also asking our constituents about their views, and we then prepared a submission to let the relevant authority know the views of our constituents.”

Primrose omitted the fact that we had been making submissions frequently, even invited by the Senate to make submissions. She has also ignored that our submission is a presentation of summarising the views of our constituents, and we categorically stated in our submission that it was not a view of our organisation.

Furthermore, while her information about the services of our organisation was factual, it is because Primrose got the information from our Annual Operations Report, a public



document available on our website. We have been so transparent and open about our dealing with the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the Chinese Government, in which the information was stated in our Annual Operations Report. If we are working with the Chinese Government with secretive agenda, would we be so transparent and open?

We have been singled out for attention because we have made a submission to the Government's Review on foreign policy. We may be the only organisation from the Chinese community making a submission. Because the name of our organisation contains the word "Chinese" and the reporter and the academic with vested interests on "Chinese", i.e. xenophobia attitude, hence, story has been made up to use us for their agenda by innuendo. They are implying that people of Chinese background can only hold "politically correct" view of certain sector of Australia, else they are "agent" of China - it is discrimination! In this country where there is supposed to have freedom of speech, are we not allowed to express our view on an important subject of this Nation, or McCarthyism is the norm to silence little people in the community?

Our submission did not propose a pro-China stand at all, rather, we proposed that Australia should be "non-alliance". Based on our increasing trade ties with countries around Australia, we should engage not only with China but actively with our other Asian neighbours e.g. India, Japan, South Koreans, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, etc. These countries make up 70% of our trade which created jobs for Australians. With Brexit, Australia should also re-establish trade link with UK. These important and relevant points were totally ignored by Primrose's article.

Dragging PM Turnbull in the story was just to increase the sensational element of Primrose's story. Dr Zhou, the Chairperson of our organisation, is a fine Australian, having contributed his efforts to enable Turnbull setting up the first mining project in China by an Australian company. Is there anything that is sinister? Is Primrose wanting all Australian companies to sever their Chinese ties and not to trade with China so that China could not have "soft influence" on Australia?

We had said to Primrose that "we are not 'accredited' by the Chinese Government in any way for our services" when she approached us. However, she still said that we were accredited. Would she please list the standards or specifications of the accreditation since she was so clear and insistent to say so.



We have been praised by many Australian politicians in the Federal and State Parliaments as mentioned in the information we provided to Primrose. She did not mention this point, she only said that the Governments praised our organisation – the difference is that the praises of politicians in the respective Parliaments were recorded in Hansard.

As part of our efforts to foster good communal relationship for the achievement of community harmony in Australia for nation building, we actively engage and have very close working relationship with other communities. To name a few, Jewish, Greek, Indians, Vietnamese, Koreans, Armenians, South Pacific and Indigenous, Indonesians, Malaysians, Singaporeans, Middle Eastern, Africans, Europeans, Thais, Egyptians, etc. It is so common that community organisations have ties with their respective Government of the country that they come from, and it is the driving mechanism to improve relationship between countries and Australia, fostering trade and cultural ties etc. Using the logic of Primrose and the academic, all these ties would be avenue for foreign countries to infiltrate Australia – are they wanting Australia to be isolated and only close to America?

In addition, we also work with many charitable NGOs like the Cancer Council, Cancer Institute, Heart Foundation, etc. It is a situation that our organisation embraces and supports the very successful multicultural policy of this country. From the governmental perspectives, we deal with all 3 levels of Australian Government, i.e. we have “links” with them. For The Australian to cast innuendos that our organisation is influenced by China suggests, our organisation is also indirectly influenced by all the other foreign Governments of community groups we deal or work with.

We have respectfully asked The Australian to let its readers know the above in comparison to the alleged innuendos of Primrose that our organisation is under the soft influence of China. We are proud to be an Australian organisation with achievements and dedications to serve this Nation. We pride ourselves as professional and with strong civic consciousness and commitment to this Nation.

(For media enquiry, please contact Ms Kitty Leong on (02) 9789 4587 ext 116 or kitty_leong@cass.org.au)