

# MEDIA STATEMENT

## ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

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8 May 2026

### Statement on reporting 8 May 2026

*This statement addresses matters raised in the Magistrates Court today concerning a potential police referral relating to the release of a statement of facts.*

The office is aware that the ACT Courts may refer a matter to the AFP.

The office received a request from the ABC for our position on the release of the statement of facts, via the court, on 31 October 2025.

Consistent with media practices which were overhauled in May 2024, the office consulted the alleged victim on the request, who did not oppose the release of the material.

Regrettably, the step of then returning to provide our consent to the ABC was, due to human error, mixed up and the office instead released a redacted version of the statement of facts to the ABC. This approach was consistent with outdated practices which are inconsistent with the office's current practice.

As soon as the error was noticed, the office contacted the ABC and sought their assurance the document would be destroyed and the court's non-publication order adhered to, and the office similarly alerted lawyers for the accused to the mistake that had occurred.

The office will of course cooperate with any investigation, if the matter is referred.

**ENDS**

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