penny sharpe mlc

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC
Shadow Minister for Transport
New South Wales Legislative Council
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The Hon. Greg Pearce MLC
Minister for Finance and Services
Level 36 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

I am writing In support of the Parliamentary Monitoring Organisation (PMO) OpenAustralia (www.OpenAustralia.org).

OpenAustralia is a not-for-profit, volunteer based organisation that aims to make it easy for people to keep track of their Federal representatives by providing alerts when any given Member of Parliament speaks.

Currently, OpenAustralia does not have the ability to provide this service to the citizens of NSW on behalf of their state representatives because of issues in accessing the Parliament of NSW's Hansard feed and due to a lack of funding to expand their operations.

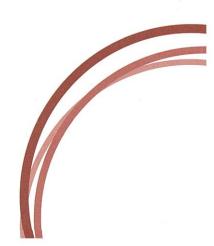I believe the citizens of NSW would benefit from such a service in this state.

OpenAustralia would require a small grant of up to $10,000 to allow expansion of their work.

Given the Government's stated commitment to *"making it easier for NSW citizens to interact with government, to harnessing the opportunities provided by ICT to improve government operations, and to developing the ICT industry in NSW"*, could you investigate if there is funding available to OpenAustralia to assist them to make it easier for NSW citizens to access and interact with the work of their elected representatives?

Yours sincerely

Penny Sharpe MLC

10 OCT 2012

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The Hon. Don Harwin MLC
President of the Legislative Council of NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear President

I am writing to request your assistance in convening a meeting with the Parliamentary Monitoring Organisation (PMO) OpenAustralia.

PMOs are organisations set up by citizens to monitor or assess the functioning of parliaments or their individual members.

OpenAustralia aims to make it easy for people to keep tabs on their Federal representatives by providing alerts when any given Member of Parliament speaks.

Currently, OpenAustralia.org does not have the ability to provide this service to the citizens of NSW on behalf of their state representatives because of issues in accessing the Parliament of NSW's Hansard feed.

The service that OpenAustralia provides is a successful blueprint for engaging citizens with the work of their elected representatives.

I believe the citizens of NSW would benefit from such a service here.

I would be grateful for your assistance in convening a meeting between Dr Matthew Landauer, Director, OpenAustralia Foundation, and the Parliamentary Information Services section to see what can be done to enable OpenAustralia to provide their service to citizens of NSW.

For more information about OpenAustralia, please visit www.OpenAustralia.org.

Yours sincerely

Penny Sharpe MLC

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