

DYSON HEYDON

Very different ideas of good governance

If only Human Rights Commission president Gillian Triggs was afforded the same level of support from Tony Abbott and his team as Dyson Heydon, the head of the royal commission on trade union corruption, is receiving. However, inconvenient truths are a far cry from the public perception that might reasonably suspect Mr Heydon was not impartial. Clearly Mr Abbott's sense of good governance, along with his leadership, are at odds with public expectations.

George Salt, East Melbourne

No suggestion by Heydon of Liberal links

Your editorial's heading that "Dyson Heydon must resign" (Saturday Age, 15/8) is followed by an acknowledgement that the Royal Commission has "done some excellent work" and "must proceed". Mr Heydon has led the commission in producing that excellent work, has not said anything that would suggest a liaison with the Liberal Party, and has now declined to speak at a Liberal Party function. Aren't you in danger of declaring him guilty before he has even spoken?

Des Moore, South Yarra

Two options – stand down or stand down

I have seen a copy of the invitation to the Sir Garfield Barwick Address. It is clearly marked as a fundraiser with proceeds going to the New South Wales Liberal Party's election campaign. It seems obvious to me that Dyson Heydon has only two options. If he knew this was a fundraising event, he should stand down from the Royal Commission because it is clear he cannot be impartial as its head. If he did not know this was a fundraising event, he should stand down because he was not able to comprehend a simple document.

Doug Steley, Heyfield

Boys making a spectacle of themselves

I am so over all the confected outrage from one side of politics, and the shambolic defence from the other, over a likely unwitting mistake made by Dyson Heydon, by all accounts an able and decent man. Opposition Leader Bill Shorten is hardly the best Labor Party member to launch an attack, because he too has self-interest in denigrating Mr Heydon. The entire parliament, over these many years now, has more the appearance of a bunch of 14-year-old boys in the schoolyard rather than mature adults getting on with the real issues that beset the world. I say boys because a parliament of women would almost certainly bring wisdom and decency back into our sagging democracy.

Dennis Whelan, Balwyn

Royal Commission's lack of credibility

Tony Abbott's pursuit of "good government" will surely lead him to call "time's up" on his flawed Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption in light of Dyson Heydon's Liberal Party speaking engagement, now declined. Not a good look, Tony, and the pain will continue.

Hugh McCaig, Blackburn

George Brandis is hardly one to complain

So Attorney-General George Brandis objects to the Labor Party's overreaction to Dyson Heydon's "political stitch up" of the union movement. This is from a man whose party chased Peter Slipper up the hill, down the vineyard, and later hounded Gillian Triggs. For Mr Brandis to talk this way is like Nick Kyrgios complaining about the decline in standards of behaviour among modern tennis players.

Jim Henderson, Croydon