

MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday, 11 November 2020

No sound reason behind knock back

The Services Union has questioned whether there is any sound reason to deny Brisbane City Councillor, Kara Cook some flexibility in the way she attends to her duties during the later stages of her pregnancy and following the birth of her child.

There are certainly no technological impediments and despite all the noise about the security of Zoom meetings earlier this year there is yet to be any solid proof that Zoom meetings are not secure and there are other similar platforms available in any event.

Secretary of the Services Union Neil Henderson was surprised at the approach which the Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner is taking to the issue.

Mr Henderson said this contrasts the decision on Councillor Cook's working arrangements with the comparatively enlightened approach to alternative working arrangements which the Council's management has been taking since COVID 19 and which is continuing.

"There seems like there are two rules in the Council one of which is motivated more from the point of view of making Councillor Cook's life more complicated than it needs to be," Henderson said.

"Since COVID 19 we have found out that many procedures and requirements in place before the pandemic could be done differently without compromising either the effectiveness or integrity of the process."

"It's time for the Council to start solving problems rather than creating them I think," Mr Henderson said.

The Services Union covers Local Government workers across Queensland.

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