

## Turnbull 'must break silence on Brethren'

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### **LABOR has challenged Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull to reveal what he knows about a shadowy Christian sect in his Sydney electorate of Wentworth.**

#### *The Australian*

newspaper today reported the Australian Federal Police was investigating dirty tricks in Wentworth, which Mr Turnbull holds by the narrow margin of 2.5 per cent.

The Exclusive Brethren denied to the paper that it was campaigning against Labor candidate George Newhouse.

A leaflet, titled *Keep Australia Christian*, urged a vote for the Howard Government because of what it claimed were anti-family policies of Labor and the Greens.

These included what were purported to be Labor and Green policies on abortion, gay marriage, sex change operations, drugs and pornography.

"The sect yesterday lodged a complaint with the Australian Electoral Commission claiming an unsigned flyer distributed in the electorate is designed to 'discredit our Church'," the report stated.

Labor frontbencher Anthony Albanese said Mr Turnbull should break his silence on what the Brethren was up to in his electorate.

"Mr Turnbull must immediately repudiate the organisation and state whether he - or a member of his staff or campaign team - has met with the extremist organisation," Mr Albanese said.

He pointed out that at least four senior coalition figures, including Prime Minister John Howard and Treasurer Peter Costello had met the Exclusive Brethren.

Mr Turnbull also should rule out accepting any official or in-kind support financial or otherwise from the Brethren, Mr Albanese said.

"Make no mistake - the tentacles of this shadowy ultra-right wing sect spread right up to the prime minister," he said.

"The news report says the flyer claims the authors are not a political party, and do not vote - a distinct policy of the Exclusive Brethren."

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