Former minister angers greys

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PENSIONERS want to oust former Liberal minister Roger Nicholls from their organisation over allegations of inappropriate sponsorship deals.

The deals include a five-year \$750,000 sponsorship with Curtin University radio station and a \$3000 dragster car.

Members of Retirees WA, formerly the Australian Pensioners' League, accused Mr Nicholls of a conflict of interest because he is being paid a \$1000-a week consultancy while still patron.

Mr Nicholls dismissed the allegations, saying branch members were misinformed.

His contract was renewed last month despite branch delegates lodging a no confidence vote in Mr Nicholls, Retirees WA president Alan Hogg and the finance committee.

Yesterday, 35 of 45 delegates voted to dismiss Mr Nicholls.

But Retirees WA public affairs officer Angela Sideris said the executive and finance committee had total confidence in Mr Nicholls, though legal advice would be sought on the new motion. The branch delegates represented only half the 13,000 members. Radio sponsorship had attracted new members.

Caption: Roger Nicholls. Memo: ROGER NICHOLLS

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