

Retirees riled by consultant's role

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PENSIONERS are outraged that their organisation has ignored their vote to sack former Liberal minister Roger Nicholls as a consultant.

Members of Retirees WA, formerly the Australian Pensioners' League, voted last month to dismiss Mr Nicholls because they claimed he was harming their organisation.

But Retirees WA has announced it would retain his \$1000-a-week consultancy and had full confidence in Mr Nicholls.

Pensioners claim Mr Nicholls has a conflict of interest because he is patron of the organisation. He had fought for big membership fee increases while entering into a five-year \$750,000 sponsorship with the Curtin University radio station.

The members claim Mr Nicholls had tried to force through a new constitution unlawfully which would put the organisation into the hands of a select few. Mr Nicholls has denied the accusations.

“We are extremely disappointed for all the members that the committee has refused to listen to the members,” Gingin president Cheryl Morton said.

Retirees WA president Alan Hogg criticised members who attack Mr Nicholls through the media.

“This action is extremely disappointing and fails to take into account the fact that Mr Nicholls is doing exactly what he was contracted to do, help the organisation implement the changes,” he said.

The changes were needed to attract new members and retirees and required professional input and assistance. “His assistance is vital to the organisation's future,” he said.

But Mrs Morton said Mr Hogg, who is a member of the group's Bunbury branch, was not interested in listening to members' concerns and had refused to attend a gathering last Thursday.

“We have held out the olive branch and they have refused it,” she said.

Mr Hogg said he had had previous commitments but would be willing to attend another meeting.

Caption: **Roger Nicholls.**

Memo: **ROGER NICHOLLS**

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