

‘It should never have happened’: Albanese speaks out on Witness K

In a live interview for *Crikey* subscribers, the leader of the opposition directly addressed the Witness K issue for the first time.

[Charlie Lewis](#) – *Crikey* - 21 August 2020

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2020/08/21/albanese-speaks-out-on-witness-k/>



(Image: AAP/Bianca De Marchi)

Labor leader Anthony Albanese has offered the party’s most unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing Witness K and Bernard Collaery scandal, speaking in a live interview on Thursday evening for *Crikey* subscribers with editor-in-chief Peter Fray and politics editor Bernard Keane.

Responding to a question submitted by a *Crikey* reader, he said was “very concerned about transparency in this case — the idea that there should be a prosecution of a whistle-blower, for what’s a shameful part of Australia’s history, is simply wrong”.

“What happened in East Timor was wrong. It should never have happened.”

We’ve [reported before](#) that Queensland MP Graham Perrett has consistently spoken out, while NSW state Labor MP Paul Lynch and Canberra MP Alicia Payne have [also voiced their protest](#). But this is the first time the Labor leader has directly addressed the issue.