‘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.