

Turnbull declares 'full support' for Lib president

By Online parliamentary correspondent Emma Rodgers

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Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull has declared his "full support" for Liberal Party president Alan Stockdale in a move to end speculation he was attempting to oust Mr Stockdale.

Reports yesterday said Mr Turnbull was seeking to replace Mr Stockdale with previous president Shane Stone in a move that had angered some Liberals.

However Mr Turnbull says the reports are not true and he is not aware of any other candidacy seeking the presidency.

"Alan Stockdale has my full support," he said.

"I know Alan Stockdale very well. I work very closely with him, he is doing a fine job as president of the Liberal Party.

"Not only is there no move against Alan Stockdale but as far as I'm aware there is nobody who has expressed any interest in replacing him."

Earlier today former opposition leader Brendan Nelson warned that any move to remove Mr Stockdale from the presidency was "unwise".

"Alan Stockdale in my view represents in many ways the heart and soul of this party," he told ABC's AM program.

"He came forward when I asked him to do so when I was leader at a time when it was not going to be easy... and I hope he will continue as the president for the foreseeable future."

Yesterday Mr Stockdale said he was not expecting a challenge to the position when he seeks re-election next month.

It had been reported that Mr Turnbull was attempting the move in a bid to revamp the Party which has been mired in internal infighting since losing the 2007 election.

Mr Turnbull has also had to deal with the fallout this week of revelations that Mr Costello was asked to return to the treasury portfolio before it was eventually given to Joe Hockey.