

# Outspoken entrepreneur Shane Yeend says he will sue Premier Jay Weatherill

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OUTSPOKEN Adelaide entrepreneur Shane Yeend says he will sue Premier Jay Weatherill for alleged “verbal assault” after a heated confrontation sparked by a story in the *Sunday Mail* last year.

The allegation of verbal assault, which Mr Yeend says he plans to file in the civil courts, happened in mid-December — the day after a [front-page story in the \*Sunday Mail\* in which the businessman had criticised the State Government for not supporting his medicinal cannabis company.](#)

Mr Yeend also took out a full-page ad in the same edition.

On the Monday night after the story and ad were published, Mr Yeend went to a Labor fundraiser attended by Mr Weatherill and Innovation Minister Kyam Maher.

According to Mr Yeend he “stood there with Kyam and listened to him (Weatherill) talking about entrepreneurship and seizing opportunities and it nearly made me vomit”.

Mr Yeend said the Premier then walked off stage and came over to talk to him.

The businessman said he told the Premier he was angry the Government had not done more to help the Australian Cannabis Corporation despite repeated requests.

This is when, according to Mr Yeend, the Premier exploded.

“He said: ‘How dare you f\*\*\*ing embarrass me. You can shove your business up your a\*\*e.’

“He went nose to nose and stormed out in front of everyone.”

Mr Yeend said he was as “shocked as anybody” by the reaction and subsequently asked his lawyers if he could take any action.



Entrepreneur Shane Yeend.

Mr Weatherill has defended his behaviour and said Mr Yeend had been “inappropriate” at the function.

He said today that the Government continued to work constructively with the Cannabis Corporation, but not Mr Yeend, who he said had “demonstrated through his conduct that it’s very hard to work with him”.

Mr Weatherill refused to talk about the incident over which Mr Yeend plans to sue, repeatedly telling reporters he would not “offer any commentary on Mr Yeend except to say I think his conduct on radio today really speaks for itself”.

Mr Yeend had a fiery discussion about Mr Weatherill on ABC 891 this morning.

“I’m sh\*\*\*y because we don’t do sh\*t. And I’m an entrepreneur who gets sh\*t done,” Mr Yeend told hosts Matthew Abraham and David Bevan.

“If he’s (Mr Weatherill) going to come out and say I was inappropriate, let’s clarify what inappropriate is.

“If inappropriate is asking a question, asking a question in action over 12 months and getting screamed at because I embarrassed him in the paper with an ad so be it.

“OK shoot me. I swear a bit. At the end of the day, I am a passionate South Australian and I get stuff done.”

Cannabis Corporation co-founder Ben Fitzsimons, who was also at the function, said he was “disappointed to see a leader engaging in the way I saw him engaging”.

“If both of them had their time again they would act differently,” Mr Fitzsimons said.

*The Advertiser’s [Saturday column Off the Record revealed last week that Mr Yeend had called the Premier a “c\\*\\*k head at best” on his private Facebook page.](#)*

Mr Yeend, who founded games company Imagination, said he was not a member of any political party and had never contributed to any except for “the \$450 we had to pay for those three tickets that night”.

He did, however, back Liberal leader Steven Marshall to become the state’s next premier.

“I saw him speak the other day and I thought he was on the front foot and came out and sounded like a leader,” he said.

The businessman is planning to “crash” the press conferences held by the Premier in the lead-up to next year’s state election, calling the project “Jay-TV”.