

From: Louise Parrott
Sent: Tue, 6 Apr 2021 16:04:10 +1000
To: Alex Morris
Cc: Justin Sowden
Subject: RE: Guardian article re Mr Laming and unauthorised Facebook pages
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Alex,

Thanks for the heads up!

Louise

Louise Parrott | Principal Government Lawyer
 Electoral Authorisation Section | Legal & Procurement Branch
 Australian Electoral Commission
 T: (02) 6271 4447 X: 21750



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From: Alex Morris <Alex.Morris@aec.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 April 2021 3:13 PM
To: Andrew Johnson <Andrew.Johnson@aec.gov.au>; Louise Parrott <Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au>
Cc: Evan Ekin-Smyth <Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au>; Mark Batistich <Mark.Batistich@aec.gov.au>;
 Isabella McCormick <Isabella.McCormick@aec.gov.au>
Subject: Guardian article re Mr Laming and unauthorised Facebook pages [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi legal eagles (and hello Louise),

Guardian Australia has [just published an article](#) on several 'dummy' Facebook pages created and/or run by Andrew Laming. Drawing to your attention as the article contains the following:

The Bowman MP, who is on leave from parliament to undertake empathy counselling following complaints about his behaviour towards women, uses the sites to promote political material and attack his Labor opponents through pages classified with Facebook as "community" and "news" groups. None of the pages include political authorisation disclosures.

According to the Australian Electoral Commission, political authorisation is required for "information that is a matter communicated, or intended to be communicated, for the dominant purpose of influencing the way electors vote in a federal election".

Evan is out today but my understanding is the AEC was not approached for comment prior to this article being published.

No action required at this stage, but I would expect this to trigger some complaints or enquiries.

Kind regards,

Alex Morris | Digital and Social Media Manager
Communications Section | Digital Technology & Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4786 X: 21303 M: s 47F

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