



Labor MP and the fabricated quote in group chat message

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Body

A federal Labor MP sent community members a message describing the Melbourne synagogue firebombing as the likely work of "a few despondent radicals who had had enough" of the bombing of Gaza.

A message under the name of Sam Lim, a first-term MP who holds the most marginal Labor seat in Western Australia, was sent at the weekend to a community WhatsApp group that is understood to have included several faith leaders.

The message included a quote that Mr Lim attributed to Anthony Albanese, but a spokesman for Mr Lim confirmed on Wednesday afternoon that it was fabricated.

The quote, which was described as Mr Albanese's response when "confronted by the Murdoch mercenaries, and others", appeared to be an imagined answer to questions about the Adass Israel Synagogue of Melbourne firebombing and the criticism of Australia by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "Mr Netanyahu should consider that the bombing of a synagogue in Australia is likely the manifestation of a few despondent radicals who had had enough of the continued aerial bombing of thousands of innocent children and women in Gaza," the fake quote reads. "Australia is a robust democracy. We do not encourage violence to those whom we do not warm to. If he continues to blame me and other world leaders, he might well be remembered in history as another hegemon who blamed everyone else for his crime against innocent civilians." A spokesman for Mr Lim said the quote was fake, but he would not expand on the origins of the statement. It's understood Mr Lim is uncertain as to how the message appeared under his name.

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