

From: Holly Castro
Sent: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 14:03:19 +1000
To: s 47F
Cc: Tom Rogers; Adam Coenraads
Subject: For information: Andrew Laming Facebook authorisations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon s 47F

This email is for information, no action is required.

Guardian Australia have [published our response](#) to their media enquiry regarding MP Andrew Laming Facebook accounts today. Please see a screen shot of the article below.

I wouldn't usually interrupt your busy schedule to notify you about the media enquiries we receive, however, there has been a fair amount of media coverage regarding Andrew Laming recently and I thought I would alert you that the Guardian has referenced the AEC and that we will be investigating the requirement for authorisation.

This email is just for your awareness. Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Holly

11m ago

11:27



Sarah Martin

The Australian Electoral Commission has confirmed that it will investigate Liberal National MP Andrew Laming over more than 30 Facebook pages that he operates without any disclosure of his involvement.

As reported by us on Tuesday, Laming has set up dozens of Facebook pages under the guise of community and news groups, including one that poses as a fake education institute.

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”.

“ *This includes, but is not limited to, a communication that expressly promotes or opposes a candidate, political party, member or senator.*

The disclosure laws, which were updated following the 2016 election, also explicitly include social media posts, requiring authorisation details either in the message or through the page’s biography details.

Laming is currently on leave for clinical and empathy counselling following revelations that he stalked two Brisbane online and took a cover photograph of a woman’s bottom with her underwear exposed.

Holly Castro | Chief of Staff

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AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

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