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Media coverage

Electoral communication

The Guardian continued to report on the Member for Bowman, including a 9 April piece saying the AEC had “asked Facebook to provide information about dozens of pages operated by Andrew Laming MP”. On the same day, the website reported Dr Laming had written to schools in his electorate, using his MP letterhead, to request NAPLAN data for private research for his doctoral thesis. Later, it said he had awarded two grants to community groups “run by an LNP branch president and administered by his own electorate officer, while the organisations used their platforms to promote the LNP”.

The ABC, on its news website and within a report on its 7.30 TV program, raised questions about Dr Laming’s link to a local rugby club that won a government grant.

The Australian reported Dr Laming planned to still seek LNP preselection, in Bowman, for the next federal election, allegedly to ensure he receives a “resettlement allowance” of more than \$100,000. Later, that same newspaper – plus other media outlets such as The Guardian, ABC Online and the *Courier Mail* – reported the Queensland LNP Executive had “blocked” Dr Laming from recontesting.

The Guardian and ABC Radio Canberra said Facebook representative ^{S 47F} was questioned by a Senate committee, on 12 April, about its handling of Dr Laming’s Facebook pages. Ms ^{S 47F} said Facebook did not disclose the identity of any person who ran pages, releasing information about only when and where the page was created, and that it was fully cooperating with an AEC investigation into Dr Laming’s social-media activities.

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Media enquiries

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News Limited's ^{S 47F} asked a series of questions about the timing and details of the AEC investigation into Dr Laming's use of Facebook. In response, the AEC said:

Other than confirming the AEC is engaging with Facebook, which is public knowledge, the AEC does not publicly comment on the progress of active investigations. Detailed information about electoral communication can be found in the AEC's [electoral backgrounder on authorisations](#)

Third-party posts: Andrew Laming, Facebook and FAD

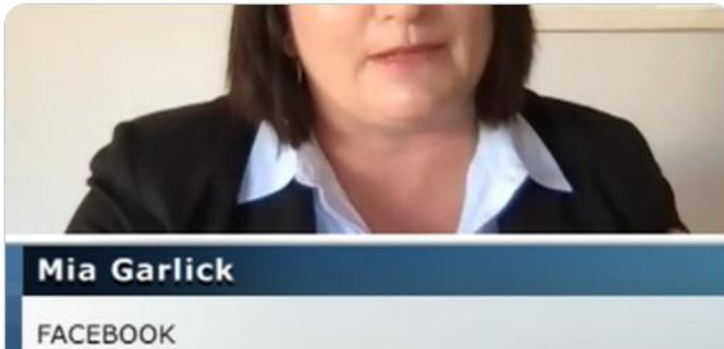
There was social media chatter about: Facebook appearance at a Senate committee hearing, the action that should be taken against Andrew Laming MP and Santos donations to political parties.



Anj of Garigal @garigalAnj · 30m

Really pathetic from @facebook representative Mia Garlick deflecting questions from @sarahinthesen8 about how many pages Andrew Laming has.

Yes we do want transparency from our politicians! @ausElectoralCom
#auspol #MediaDiversityInquiry



Jill Peterson @SquinterMc · 9h

Hey @AusElectoralCom... I really hope Mr Laming experiences proper regulatory enforcement. Elected representatives seem to feel a sense of impunity as if they are above the law. It's well past time to send a message to them, and the community, that they aren't. #EnoughIsEnough



Comrade Dogboy, on Kauria land @54dogboy · 12h

Replying to @ShiannonC

Still in parliament, still voting for Govt policy, still filling up his super. Nothing to celebrate. @AusElectoralCom need to push the case against his use of socials without branding, breaches Com. Elect. Act. If so, he's done. By election time.



Scott C Y Ma 馬陳耀 @scruff888 · 15h

For those watching @4corners on @ABCTV about how #fossilfuel companies pay for policy, the donations that Santos made to #Australia's political parties declared to the @AusElectoralCom can be found at transparency.aec.gov.au/AnnualClientEn...

