



## **The Hon Craig Laundry MP**

Minister for Small and Family Business, the Workplace and Deregulation  
Member for Reid

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Labor needs to ensure staff are getting the right workplace advice**

After appearing on Sky News this morning encouraging workers to contact Fair Work if they have bullying concerns, I was gobsmacked to hear Labor contacted media denying their own federal electoral office staff are covered by the Fair Work Act.

This is simply wrong.

Parliamentary staff are covered by the Fair Work Act and they have the same rights as all other National System workers covered by the Fair Work Act. The Act that Labor themselves created.

I'm concerned that Labor is providing its staff with incorrect workplace relations advice while playing politics on this very serious issue.

I'm also concerned to hear Bill Shorten continuing to insist that staff who've been allegedly subjected to bullying should put their faith in an inquiry being overseen by a former senior Labor staffer.

If any other company or organisation in Australia faced allegations of this nature and referred complaints to a former member of staff, I'm sure Mr Shorten would be jumping up and down.

Once again it demonstrates Bill Shorten's inability to lead – the very same sloppy approach that caused five by elections this coming weekend.

As with all workplace disputes, the independent Fair Work Ombudsman is best placed to assist employees with their workplace rights, including the right not to be bullied at work. The Fair Work Act allows the Fair Work Commission to make orders to prevent any ongoing risk of bullying at work.

The Fair Work Ombudsman can be contacted by calling the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 or information is available at its website [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au). The Ombudsman can also provide you with advice on whether you are covered by the Fair Work Act.

Information on bullying is available on the Fair Work Commission website [www.fwc.gov.au](http://www.fwc.gov.au)

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