



The Hon Craig Laundry MP

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

MEDIA RELEASE

August 11 2018

Shorten must ensure Husar's staff are now put first

Workplace Minister Craig Laundry has called on Bill Shorten to ensure staff at the centre of bullying allegations in the office of the Member for Lindsay now have access to appropriate assistance.

"Once again I call on Bill Shorten and NSW Labor to advise any current or former staff of their right to take their complaints to appropriate authorities," My Laundry said.

"Given Jack Whelan's report found that "staff were subjected to unreasonable management including unreasonable communications, demands, practices and disciplinary methods," and that, "staff performed non-work related personal duties for the Member for Lindsay," alarm bells should have been ringing in relation to bullying allegations months ago and staff should have been directed to appropriate agencies to investigate concerns immediately.

"Shorten needs to come clean on when he and others in the Labor Party knew about these allegations given it may in fact mean that some of these staff may have been denied the opportunity to take action due to the delays.

"For example, if staff had been advised of the option to seek a stop bullying order from the Fair Work Commission while they were still employed, many may have kept their jobs.

"Staff have paid the price for bad advice with their jobs. Their livelihoods have been sacrificed in in Labor's attempt to protect Bill Shorten's star MP," Mr Laundry said.

"As an architect of the Fair Work system, Bill Shorten has no excuse for bypassing the agencies he helped create in a desperate attempt to limit the political damage.

"Once again he has put himself ahead of workers as if the Labor Party is above the law.

"If Bill Shorten won't stand up to protect Labor's staff, I will. Staff need to know that they still have other avenues following the review."

Employees who have general workplace relations concerns or believe they have been unfairly dismissed can contact the Fair Work Ombudsman on 131 394.

Complaints of bullying or mistreatment at work can be made to the Fair Work Commission on 1300 799 675.

Another avenue for staff concerned about workplace bullying and harassment is to contact the relevant workplace safety authority. SafeWork NSW may be contacted by calling 13 10 50.

Workers who may have sustained an injury as a result of workplace experiences may lodge a claim for workers' compensation. Comcare, or iCare (the workers' compensation insurer for New South Wales) can be contacted on 1300 366 979 or 13 77 22 respectively.

Staff are also encouraged to access the relevant Employee Assistance Program where this would be helpful. Further information and contact details for the program are available at <https://maps.finance.gov.au/>

“No one queries Jack Whelan’s independence or reputation. No one. However, given media coverage indicates his assessment, "generally favoured the complainant's perception of events", it's time these people were given the help and attention they rightly deserve,” Mr Laundry said.

Media contact:

Office of the Hon Craig Laundry MP – Rod Bruem 0427 824 971