




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 13 May 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Federal Member for Bowman

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.52 pm): Fortunately, in this House I cannot be gagged by Scott Morrison or Peter Dutton. In the last sitting I called on the LNP to do the right thing with regard to the federal member for Bowman, Andrew Laming; to turn into action their words that sought to condemn the harassment and assault of women; to support women across Queensland to feel safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. But they are silent, their words are hollow and they are missing in action. Given what transpired in Cairns this week, it is clear that the LNP's reservoir of respect is barren. It is devoid of empathy. Its tank is empty.

You cannot rewrite history. Shortly I will share with the House, through the very platform used to harass, my character assassination and just some of the abuse and harassment I have experienced from the federal member for Bowman. The audacity of the federal member for Bowman to stand up in the federal parliament this week and take offence at being called a taxpayer funded Facebook troll is simply unbelievable, when in his own comments he acknowledges that he is a troll. Not only does he state that he is a Facebook troll; he also freely admits to running over 37 Facebook pages. For the benefit of the House, I table a document where he acknowledges that.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 28 February 2019, from the Facebook account of the federal member for Bowman, Mr Andrew Laming MP [645](#).

I will give some more examples. We have heard a lot about the photo in the park. For the benefit of members I will describe the post. It has a photo of a bush and me, and the caption reads—

Most awkward thing ever. Kim Richards with no reason to be in a kids' park ...

Honestly! Talk about being stalked and trolled on Facebook! He posted—

6pm Valentines Day. @KimRichardsMP left her office with FOUR people. Of course deliberations are confidential, but I am publicly asking Kim to identify who she met with and left with?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, I will ask you to table that. Read from it or table it.

Ms RICHARDS: I will table it. He offered a \$100 donation to a chosen charity for people to chase me down. He is forever trying to chase me and tag me down. I table more extracts from the member's Facebook pages.

Tabled paper: Bundle of extracts from various social media accounts, regarding posts by the federal member for Bowman, Mr Andrew Laming MP [646](#).

Then the member decides that I am the 'most evasive and dishonest MP'. He posted—

So I'm offering a Coast holiday with rooftop champers, to the first person to get Kim Richards ...

Honestly! He implied that I am a liar. He posted the most misogynist piece of artwork you will ever see: 'Skimmy & the Shirty Shovel'. Taxpayer funds at work!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table it please, member.

Ms RICHARDS: The posts go on and on. It is absolutely disturbing. As I said, this is the tip of the iceberg. I have here the rest of them. Talk about character assassination! There it is. It has been a sustained attack. It is an unhealthy obsession. ADHD is no excuse. Sussan Ley stood up in the federal parliament and said that everyone is entitled to respect in the workplace—obviously except in her workplace or our workplace. To suggest that the Morrison government is committed to building a new culture of respect is an absolute farce. I say that the federal member for Bowman is unfit to represent my community and, again, the LNP should do the right thing.

(Time expired)