

6/6/23, 1:08 PM

Gmail - Everything you need



Lisa Wilkinson &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

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**Everything you need**

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David Sharaz <[REDACTED]>  
To: Lisa Wilkinson <[REDACTED]>

Hi Lisa,

Thank you for your time over the phone today, and your sensitivity around what I truly feel is an injustice.

I'm sending this on behalf of Britt, purely because, and this sounds paranoid, we just don't know who might be keeping a close eye on her.

As discussed, we're happy for you to send this to your producer (and thank you for speaking to your EP for us).

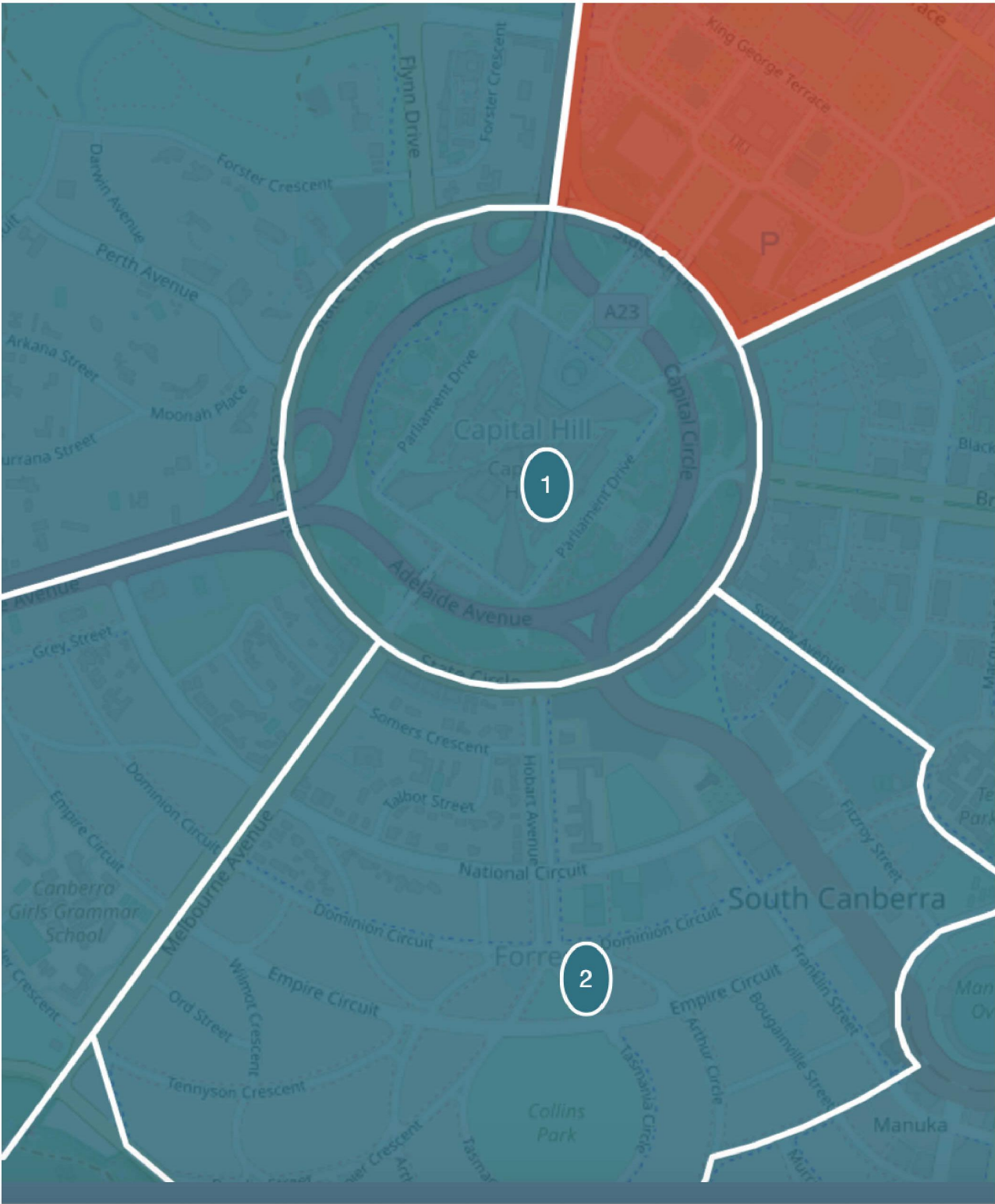
Brittany really needs to be out of the Parliament House when both the story breaks, and the police report is relaunched. She's also happy to come to Sydney but dc

In addition to this I've gone and looked up the ACT Policing crime stats for 2019 and there was one reported sexual assault during the time Britt's incident occurred,

You can always chat to me over the phone if you need more, and I can put Britt on.

Thanks again,

David Sharaz



List of People who are aware:

Name	Role	How they found out
Chris Payne	DLO to MINDEF	Found out from the Department of Defence due to a security breach in the Minister's office.
Fiona Brown	Acting Chief-of-Staff to Minister Reynolds.  Current logistics adviser to the Prime Minister	Found out from the Ministerial Wing Security due to a security breach.
Dean Carlson	Acting Senior Media Adviser to Minister Reynolds	Found out from Fiona Brown to manage the situation.
Minister Reynolds	Minister for Defence Industry	Found out from Fiona Brown to manage the situation.
Minister Cash	Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business	Found out from Daniel Try.
Daniel Try	Chief-of-Staff to Minister Cash	Found out via phone call from Minister Reynolds.
Daniel Wong	EA to Chief-of-Staff for the Prime Minister	Found out from Fiona Brown and was around during the incident.
John Kunkel	Chief-of-Staff to the Prime Minister	Found out from Fiona Brown and was around during the incident.
Karly Abbott	Senior Adviser to Minister Cash and Minister Ciobo	Found out from an unknown third party.
Ben Dillaway	Senior Media Adviser to Minister Ciobo	Brittany told him.
Julian Leembruggen	Policy Adviser to Prime Minister	Ben Dillaway informed him. Julian requested that he not provide a name or identifying details.
Unknown Female Security Guard (young-ish)	Security guard - witness	Found the next day.

2x Security Guards on Shift	Security guards - witness	There ahead of the incident.
Regina Camera	Senior Adviser to Minister Cash	Brittany told them.
Dhanya Mani	Former Liberal Staffer	Brittany reached out for advice.
Ally Lupino	Adviser to Minister Andrews.	Brittany told them.
Sophia Carlini	Former adviser to Minister Cash.	Brittany told them.
Clare Green	Former adviser to Minister Tehan.	Brittany told them.
Belconnen Police - Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit (SACAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Rebecca Cleaves.</b></li> <li>- <b>Sarah Harman.</b></li> </ul>	Parliament House Unit Reported the incident.
Parliament House Police Unit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Katie Thelning.</b></li> <li>- Another officer.</li> </ul>	Ministerial Wing Security / Fiona Brown reported the incident.
Kathryn Cripps	Canberra Rape Crisis Centre Volunteer.	Present at the ACT Police Station.
Head of ACT Police Station:  Belconnen Police - Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit (SACAT)	Unknown Officer Name.	Phone call during the 2019 Federal Election - referred from Rebecca Cleaves.
Christie (last name unknown)	Former adviser to Minister Reynolds (during MINDEF period).	Informed the Cash office about the Canberra Times enquiry. Questioned Brittany at the time of the story.
David Sharaz	Partner	Brittany told them.
Bruce Lehrmann	Former Adviser to Minister Reynolds.	Perpetrator.

\*\*\*\*\*Notification was sent to the Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP) from the Parliament House AFP Station

Facts: There are 8 visible cameras between the Ministerial Wing basement entrance and suite M1.21



**Timeline:****March**

- **Saturday, 2nd March 2019:** Brittany's employment contract with Minister Ciobo officially concluded today.
- **Sunday, 3rd March 2019:** Brittany officially employed by Minister Reynolds.
- **Saturday, 23rd March 2019:** The assault occurred.
- **Tuesday, 26th of March 2019:** Bruce was fired.
- **Wednesday, 26th of March 2019:** Brittany met with the Parliament House Police Unit to recount the incident.

**April**

- **Monday, 1 April 2019:** Meeting with Linda Reynolds and Fiona Brown in Minister Reynolds office.
- **Tuesday, April 2019:** Budget week.
- **Monday, 8 April 2019:** AFP station in Belconnen with Rebecca Cleaves.
- **Saturday, 13th of April 2019:** Brittany is flown to Perth.
- **Monday, 29th of April 2019:** Brittany receives a call from the AFP Bureau Chief of the Sexual Assault unit.

**May**

- **Thursday, 16th of May 2019:** Latika Burke story about bullying in Minister Wyatt's office.
- **Sunday, 19th May 2019:** Federal Election.
- **Monday, 20th May 2019:** Brittany flies back to Canberra.
- **Thursday, 30th May 2019:** Brittany interview with Daniel Try (Chief-of-Staff to Minister Cash)

**June**

- **Monday, 3rd June 2019:** Job interview with Minister Cormann - offered the position.
- **Wednesday, 5th June 2019:** Job interview with Minister Cash - offered and accepted the position.
- **Wednesday, 5th June 2019:** Job interview with Stuart Robert - offered the position.
- **Friday, 7th June 2019:** Brittany's final day in Minister Reynolds office and notifies the team.
- **Wednesday, 12th June 2019:** Brittany's original contract with Minister Cash from Star Chamber is rejected. (Note - Fiona Brown sits on Star Chamber)

**July:**

- **Tuesday, 30th of July 2019:** Two Former Liberal Staffers (Eric Bagshaw - SMH story) came out today. Comments from senior Cabinet Ministers: "We encourage individuals to engage/report any such incidents with the appropriate authorities".

*Note: Including Minister Cash who did media in PH to back in the 60,000 mutual obligations payment suspension story (run by 'The Australian').*

#### September:

- **Friday, 18th of September 2019:** Midwinter Ball. Brittany takes photos of Minister Cash, Minister McKenzie, Minister Ruston, Minister Andrews and Minister Reynolds in the Ministerial Wing ahead of the event.

*Note: Brittany attends in a personal capacity at 'The Australian' table.*

#### October:

- **Friday, 18th October 2019:** Minister Reynolds calls Daniel Try about a journalist enquiry from the Canberra Times regarding an alleged staffer incident that occurred ahead of the election.
  - Kirsty from Minister Reynolds comes up to Minister Cash's office to speak to Brittany.
  - Daniel Try and Brittany Higgins inform Minister Cash.
  - Brittany Higgins leaves to work from home for the rest of the day.
- **Saturday, 19th October 2019:** Federal Liberal Party Convention: Brittany went in a work capacity with Minister Cash. Briefly spoke to Minister Reynolds who asked if she was okay following the journo enquiry from the 'Canberra Times'.
- **Sunday, 20th October 2019:** Brittany gets a call from Rebecca Cleaves stating that the ACT Commissioner has prepared notes on the incident to go into his Senate Estimates briefing pack.
- **Monday, 21st October 2019:** *Home Affairs Senate Estimates:*
  - Minister Cash took a documented trip to Master Builders ACT to meet apprentices.
  - Relinquished repping duties of the AFP portion of Senate Estimates / Repped by Minister Payne.

**Facts/What was I told at the time:****Fiona:*****Meeting 1:***

- Bruce was originally brought into Fiona Brown's office and after an hour of closed door discussion was told to pack up his things.
- I was asked to go into Fiona Brown's office after Bruce. She asked me about the events of Saturday night and then I told her what happened. This was the first time that I had vocalised what had happened and internalised that I was raped.
- I was made to resign the 'Ministerial Code of Conduct'.
- Ministerial Wing security had alerted Fiona to the 'security breach' that occurred over the weekend.
- Fiona stated I was visibly drunk in the video coming through the entrance of the Ministerial Wing.
- According to Fiona, Bruce stated that he was not drinking at the time he entered Parliament House.

***Meeting 2:***

- There was going to be an internal report conducted with Parliament House security and an update to how they would handle future situations.
- There was a noticeable presence of Daniel Wong/Kunkel in the office during the week following the incident.
- They provided me with the brochure and details for the EAP (Employee Assistance Program).
- Stated the AFP Unit in Parliament House had been informed and would like to speak with me.
- I signed something else but I am unsure of what it was.

***Meeting 3: (Fiona Brown and Minister Reynolds)***

- *The meeting took place in her office where the assault had occurred. I found this extremely uncomfortable as it was the first time that I had been back in that room.*
- The Minister stated that the reports of what had happened made her feel "physically ill" and that she was "shocked and appalled by what had taken place".
- They both repeated that if I chose to report the incident to the authorities that they would be supportive.
- This was the first and last time in Minister Reynolds office that they directly addressed the sexual assault with me personally.

***Meeting 4:***

- I was given two options:
  - 1.) I could go home to the Gold Coast for the duration of the election campaign but that this would likely impact my ability to reapply for a job in the future.

2.) I could stay onboard and go to Perth, Western Australia for the campaign.

Chris Payne: (DLO)

- He was aware of the security breach and those involved in the incident in his official capacity as DLO for the Department of Defence.
- Chris stated I was 'found' by a security guard who entered the suite early Sunday morning.
- Chris asked whether I had been raped by Bruce.

Rebecca Cleaves: (Police Officer)

- Picked me up from the Ministerial Entrance of Parliament House. This was previously arranged by the police unit inside Parliament House. They drove me to the police station in Belconnen.
- Asked me to recount the facts of what happened in an 'unofficial statement'.
- Introduced me to Kathryn Cripps who was there as a support person for me from the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC).
- Informed me that based on the facts that I had given to the Parliament House police unit she had started to pull footage from venues that I had frequented on the night of the incident.
- Rebecca Cleaves stated that she was already having difficulties with Parliament House with her initial enquiries for footage/information.
- Rebecca was very honest and talked me through the process of a conviction - the likelihood of a sentence being served, the onus of proof and how long the entire process would take.

Christie (Adviser with MINDEF):

- Daniel Try arranged for Kristy to come up to the office following a call from Minister Reynolds.
- A journalist from the Canberra Times had contacted Minister Reynold's office with an allegation about an incident that occurred between two staff members in her office in April.
- Christie was seeking to ascertain whether I had leaked the story to the journalist. This was evidently inaccurate.
- Christie proceeded to ask about who I had told. I stated that I had told my parents and my therapist. The other people that knew were the Canberra police, the security guards and those directly involved at the time.
- Daniel queried how they could proceed with uncorroborated allegations without the approval of the central victim.
- They stated that they would speak with Dutton's office to discuss how the story got out.

**Article A: Communication from Parliament House AFP unit****Referral and support information [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]**

Inbox x

**Thelning, Katie** <[REDACTED]>  
to me, Rebecca ▾

Tue, Apr 2, 2019, 6:13 PM

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi Brittany,

I hope this email finds you well. As discussed over the phone this afternoon, I have been in touch with the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, I have not given them any of your details or details of what occurred. They have advised me that they can offer support services to you such as counselling, offering advice, someone to speak to and more. In order to receive this support they have requested that you call them on their Crisis Line phone number (02)62472525 between the hours of 7am – 11pm, please be assured that you can remain anonymous if you wish. If for any reason you don't feel comfortable doing this please let me know and I can arrange a meeting between the Rape Crisis Centre and yourself face to face.

Also as discussed I have made a referral via our Wraparound Support Program, this will notify several organisations who can provide support to you in some capacity, including the notification to the Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP), this will assist if at any time in the future you do make the decision to proceed with a formal complaint.

If you would like to discuss anything further please do not hesitate in contacting myself or Federal Agent **Rebecca** Cleaves on [REDACTED] or alternatively you are welcome to pop down to the basement now that you know where we sit.

Take care.

**FEDERAL AGENT KATIE THELNING**

PROTECTION LIAISON

CANBERRA OFFICE

Tel [REDACTED]

[www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au)**AFP**

POLICING FOR . . . . .

**Article B:** Communication following the incident with SACAT ACT police.

Appointment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]   

Cleaves, Rebecca <[REDACTED]>  
to me, Sarah ▾

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Brittany,

With your appointment this afternoon, Sarah Harman from our SACAT unit will be contacti

In the interim if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to give me a cal

Kind regards

Bec

**REBECCA CLEAVES**

PROTECTION LIAISON

CANBERRA OFFICE

Tel [REDACTED]

[www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au)



POLICING FOR  
A SAFER AUSTRALIA

**Article C: Communication with the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre following the election**

**Kathryn Cripps** <[REDACTED]>  
to me ▾

Jun 4, 2019, 4:35 PM ★ ↩

Hi Brittany,

The elections are now over and I'm wondering if any issues are now arising for you. Please know that I am here to talk to or come in and have a session. Please phone on [REDACTED] and ask for Kathryn, if needed.

Regards, Kathryn  
Counsellor / Advocate

Please be aware that this email is not monitored 24 hours a day. If you need urgent assistance, please contact 000.

**Article D: Pausing the active case with the AFP following internal pressure to go to Perth for the 2019 Federal Election****Brittany Higgins - No Further Action RE: #6381473** ➤

**Brittany Mae** <[REDACTED]>  
to sarah.harman ▾

Sat, Apr 13, 2019, 1:27 PM

Good Afternoon Sarah,

After careful consideration I have decided not to proceed any further in this regard.

I really appreciate your time, professionalism and assistance with this complaint. You helped more than you know.

It's just not the right decision for me personally, especially in light of my current workplace demands.

Thank-you again for your candour and I apologise if I've taken up much of you time.

Kind regards,

Brittany



**Article E:** Letter of Thank-you following the Federal Election in 2019

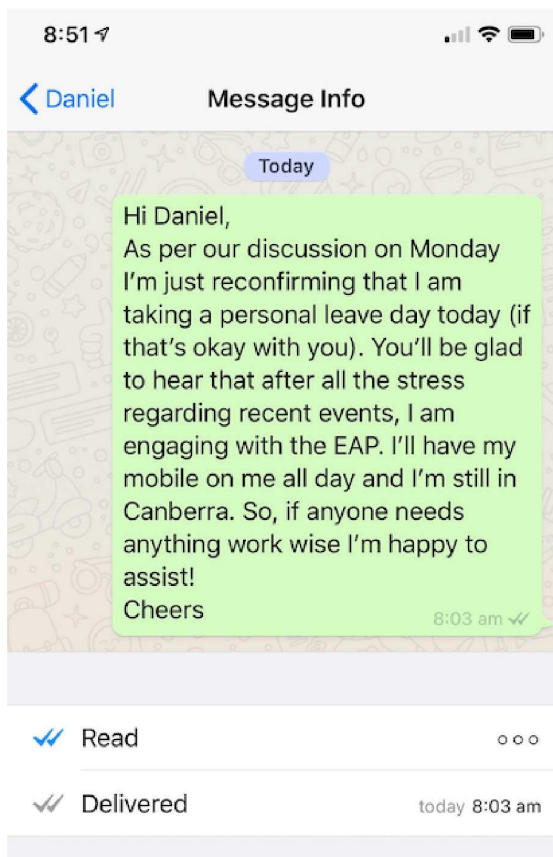
**Article F:** Minister for Defence Industry office contact details and structure following elevation of Senator Reynolds into Cabinet.

Note - Bruce is listed as an advisor and Brittany is admin/media assistant.

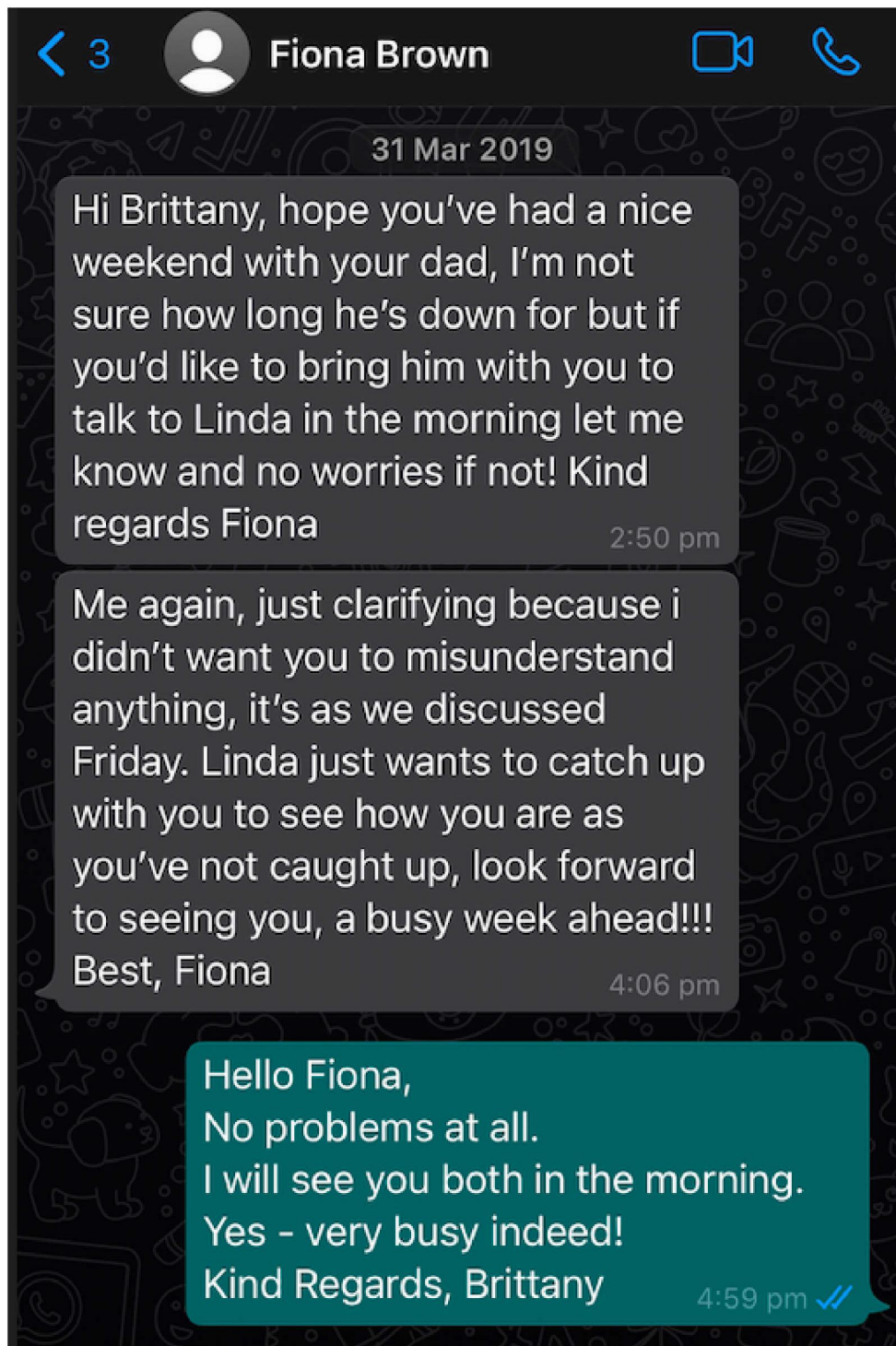
Name	Email	Phone	Position	Notes
Hon Linda Reynolds			Minister	
Bruce Lehmann			Adviser	APH
Chanelle Zubrinich			Electorate Officer	EO Part Time
Jesse Wotton			Assistant Adviser	EO
Kate Russell			Electorate Officer	EO Part Time
Kathryn Scully			DLO	APH
Keetha Wilkinson			Electorate Officer	EO
Linda Crook			Electorate Officer	EO
Michelle Lewis			EO - Office Manager	EO
Nicky Hamer			EO - Media	EO
Octavia Reynolds			Electorate Officer	EO
Drew Burland			Adviser	APH
Brittany Higgins			Admin/Media Asst	APH
Doug Ridd			Senior Adviser	APH
Geoff Hayes			Senior Adviser	APH
Chris Payne			DLO	APH
Nikita Irvine			AdelC	APH

Unit C, 117 Great Eastern Highway, Rivervale, 6105

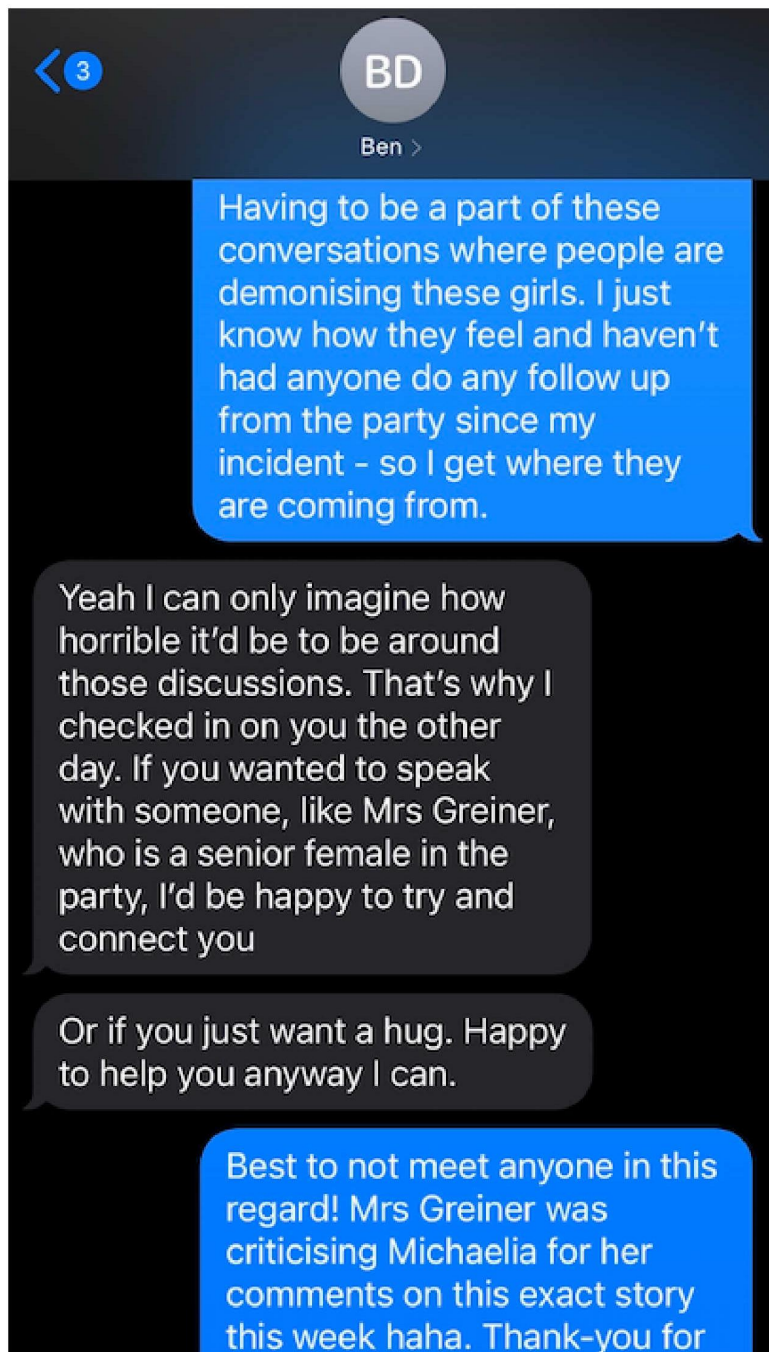
**Article G:** Communication with Daniel Try following the Senate Estimates week taking a day of stress leave.



**Article H:** Communication with Fiona Brown setting up *Meeting 3* with Minister Reynolds to discuss the incident.

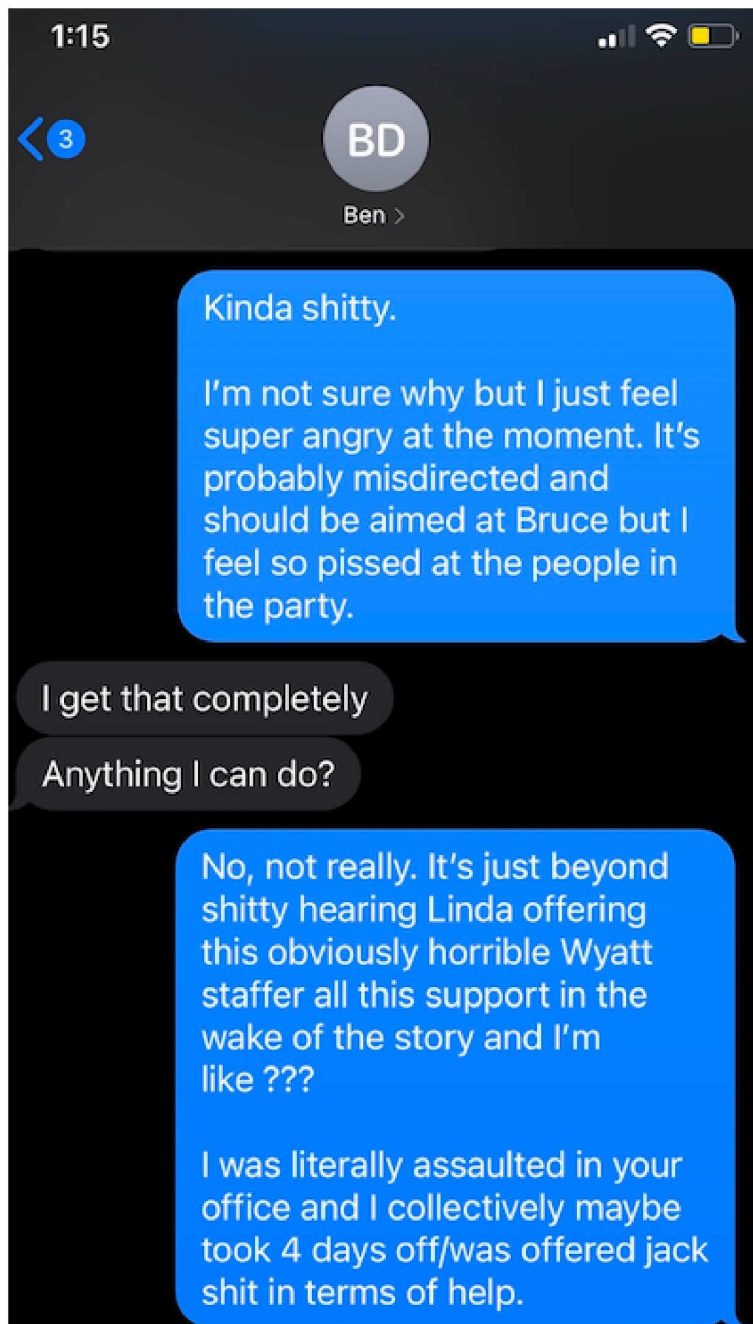


**Article I:** Conversation with former staffer Ben Dillaway following the media articles by Eric Bagshaw in the SMH RE: Two former liberal staffers coming forward.





**Article J:** Conversation with former staffer Ben Dillaway during the election following the media articles by Latika Bourke RE: bullying allegations in Minister Wyatt's office.





No results found.

## 2 Select offence type

**Offences:**

☐ Assault
 ☐ Burglary

☐ Robbery
 ☐ Homicide

☒ Sexual Assault
 ☐ Other offences against the person

☐ Stolen motor vehicles
 ☐ Property damage

☐ Other offences
 ☐ Theft (excluding SMV)

**Infringements:**

☐ Traffic infringement Notices
 ☐ Criminal infringement Notices

## 3 Select time period

2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec