

**INQUIRY INTO ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT
(COMPLAINT HANDLING) BILL 2020**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 24 April 2020

Partially
Confidential

Two decades after he began lodging complaints, the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board (ADB) has decided that Garry Burns is vexatious.

The ADB has decided that Burns' three complaints against Israel Folau should be dismissed, according to media reports: "

ADB president Annabelle Bennett this week wrote to Mr Burns "declining" the complaint because she was satisfied it was vexatious and "a flagrant abuse of process such that no further actions should be taken".

She found Mr Burns had not pursued the complaint under the state's Anti-Discrimination Act "in order to avail himself of the processes afforded under the ADA but for a collateral purpose, as a means to pressure the respondent to settle with him". The president wrote that the inference was that the settlement sought by Mr Burns was "directed to the payment of money". She noted the activist had disregarded the confidential nature of the process by issuing a media release which stated, in part: "Fellas, I'm just like a vicious Alsatian dog. Once I grab hold of the leg, I don't let go until the bone is bare and bloodied. One way or another, I will get that remedy from Mr Folau."

Dr Bennett also wrote that Mr Burns had sent numerous "inappropriate" emails to Mr Folau's lawyers. This proves that the ADB has been involved in a massive abuse of process, aiding and abetting Burns to lodge hundreds of vexatious complaints.

The ADB has been provided evidence in the case of Bernard Gaynor proving that Burns has acted in exactly the same way with him as he did with Folau. Yet the ADB has not only refused to accept it, it has removed this evidence from the files it sends to NCAT, describing it as irrelevant. And it has written to Mr Gaynor stating that it does not have the power to investigate if complaints are vexatious.

I have been following the case of My Gaynor with interest. Mr Burns' tactic seems to be to take his victims to court with vexacious complaints in order to bankrupt them through mounting and continuing legal costs.

As an individual, I can't bear the thought that anyone can make a vexatious claim against me, take me to court and bankrupt me in the process having to defend myself. Firstly, vexatious

complaints should be recognised and dismissed and secondly, Mr Gaynor should be compensated for the incompetence of the ADB in Qld so I am in favour of Mr Latham's bill becoming law across Australia (not just NSW) to prevent such blatant misuse of our legal system..