

**Response from Sam Weir, Editor, Herald Sun:**

- 1. The Herald Sun has published on its front page two leaked photos of Mr Laidley which appear to have been unlawfully taken in the police station. Do you believe publishing these photos was in the public interest?**

The publication of the arrest story and photographs was clearly newsworthy and in the public interest. The story, photographs and accompanying headlines provided a complete and accurate account of the arrest of a high-profile person charged with serious criminal offences, and also a complete and accurate account of the fact there was a police investigation into the leaking of the images. Both were major news stories. The stories and accompanying photographs, which were widely available on social media, have been published in major newspapers across Australia.

- 2. A number of commentators have accused The Hun of hypocrisy, by reporting on Mr Laidley's mental health issues while publishing photos of Mr Laidley in a compromising situation. Do you have any response to this?**

The publication of the arrest story and photographs was clearly newsworthy and in the public interest, as explained in answer 1.

- 3. Writing in The Guardian Rohan Connolly says the Hun chose clicks and dollars over Mr Laidley's mental health. Do you have any response to this?**

The publication of the arrest story and photographs was clearly newsworthy and in the public interest, as explained in answer 1. *The Guardian* column is irrelevant.

- 4. Mr Laidley's lawyer says the media is pandering to unfounded prejudice by showing the photos. Do you have any response to this?**

The publication of the arrest story and photographs was clearly newsworthy and in the public interest, as explained in answer 1.