

Vincent De Luca OAM on Luke McIlveen and the Manly Daily's bias

I have now been in public life for over a decade. As an idealistic 22 year old standing at my first election wanting to make real change and fight for the community, I had great hope and wanted to make a difference. I fought that election despite being diagnosed with cancer, I remained in politics because I love the Warringah community and will always fight for their interests.

I never thought politics would be easy, particularly being elected to one of Australia's most controversial Councils - Warringah Council having been sacked on three occasions and several Councillors gaoled – but I never expected to encounter such bias, unethical and inaccurate reporting from my local paper, the Manly Daily. Maybe it was because I was young, maybe it was because I threatened a well established 'old guard' with close friends at the local Manly Daily who were determined to ensure their political continuance – I sincerely don't know what started the vendetta.

But after years of being the subject of dishonest, inaccurate and bias reporting by the Manly Daily, even I am shocked at the disgusting inaccuracies and blatant bias of the Manly Daily's articles in the last week. It appears some have no hesitation in attempting to cause as much harm as possible to a person, regardless of the truth and the facts. What this traumatic experience has highlighted to me is the need for tougher penalties against unethical journalists who fail in their duty to report accurately and impartially.

The Editor of the Manly Daily is Luke McIlveen, a man that cynically boasts he *“cannot understand what the internet has to offer apart from compromising Facebook pictures he might be able to lift for tomorrow's front page - www.thepunch.com.au/author-bios/luke-mcilveen.*

Media Watch has done an excellent job over the years in exposing Luke McIlveen's at best incompetent reporting and at worst downright unethical reporting. While Luke McIlveen was with News Ltd's Daily Telegraph, his article titled *“Brogden's sordid past”* became infamous - www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/transcripts/s1453097.htm. In this case, Media Watch exposed that the articles were completely inaccurate. The two women Luke McIlveen claimed to have been his sources both responded to Media Watch stating McIlveen's “account is a lie”. Both of McIlveen's purported go on to state:

“These statements (alleged by McIlveen) are completely false. I never revealed details to The Daily Telegraph.

— Anonymous journalist (1) to Media Watch, Email

Both statements are untrue and have caused me considerable distress.

— Anonymous journalist (2) to Media Watch, Email “

Media Watch concluded that while Luke Mcllveen's article in The Daily Telegraph "was not responsible for John Brogden's attempt on his life, The Daily Telegraph's first edition of August 31st, 2005 was a disgrace, which will be remembered in its own shame file."

Unfortunately, Luke Mcllveen's articles on Mr Brogden are not the first and last time Media Watch questioned his journalistic capacity and ability to ensure correct reporting - www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/transcripts/s1427032.htm. Media Watch found this story to be:

"A story that no paper with any self respect would give any credibility at all. Reporter Luke Mcllveen's 'exclusive' was based on the word of William Miller, a self-confessed criminal".

And then in 2006 Media Watch exposed more of Luke Mcllveen's extraordinary failure to report accurately – www.abcscience.com.au/mediawatch/transcripts/s1766026.htm

"The reporter is Luke Mcllveen. But the claims of an ANZ call centre in Bangalore are wrong."

Following Luke Mcllveen's career at The Daily Telegraph and after continually being exposed by Media Watch, News Ltd's Cumberland Newspapers thought fit to promote him to the position of Editor of the Manly Daily.

The recent scandal involving Rupert Murdoch's News of the World should be a wake up call to News Ltd and the Australian community. Journalists currently have great power, so much so, they can destroy a person's life and professional reputation. While Media Watch and the Australian Press Council do a great job in holding people like Luke Mcllveen to account, often the damage is already done and their victims' lives and reputations destroyed.

What this whole sorry saga tells me – we need urgent legislative reform so entities like the Australian Press Council become formal bodies and have powers to fine, properly restrain and remove journalists who breach essential principles of honesty, ethics, accuracy and integrity.

Vincent De Luca OAM

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