

MEDIA STATEMENT FROM

dontbeafuckingidiot.com

This website was put up on Wednesday the 4th of September at approximately 2am and has blown up something crazy since then. In 24 hours it received over 200,000 Facebook likes. This is likely an unprecedented social media statistic in Australian politics.

Visits to the site crashed my server and my account was suspended. I then had to go to a cloud-based serving solution and redirect traffic to dontbeafuckingidiot.herokuapp.com to be able to deal with more than 1400 simultaneous unique users accessing the site.

As a result of this my Google analytics data can't track exactly how many people have visited the site, but I estimate it to be between 750,000 to 1.25M visitors in the first 24 hours based on existing data. This equates to approximately 2-4% of Australian voters.

My ISP contacted me on Wednesday afternoon to let me know that the federal opposition party's lawyers* were demanding my personal details. Despite this being a personal project not paid for or endorsed by anyone, I gave them permission to hand over my name, address, and phone number so that the site could stay up.

Approximately one hour later I received several phone calls making implied threats about my professional career. Who exactly was responsible for these phone calls isn't entirely clear, but I do have the phone number of one of them at least.

I want to use this opportunity to make it very clear that this is a personal project and has nothing to do with my employers, associates, friends or family. My personal information has been shared online with no small amount of vitriolic name calling. Attacking my views and whatnot is fine because clearly the rant on this website is pretty, well, swearsy and ranty, so you've got to expect a bit of to and fro.

However, I'd ask that the media and people from the LNP and their associates please not post personal information relating to my family or other people or organisations that I'm associated with as that's not really fair. Attack me, my website, the content and political arguments all you like, but leave other people out of it, please.

This site was created because I, as an individual, genuinely care about the future of our country and our planet. I'm not a Labor party member, and in many ways my political views align with The Greens and others too. However I also believe that the Australian Labor Party is a much better choice to lead this country over the next three years, and that they've done so many really positive things for us recently and in the past. Things like Medicare, floating the Australian dollar, investing in education infrastructure and the Gonski reforms, looking after people in need with DisabilityCare, and lots of other social justice issues that have made our country a better place. I'm really worried about what's going to happen to our hospitals, schools, and people who really need support in our communities if the LNP secure government this Saturday.

Also it's worth noting that I realise that there's more to political discourse than swears and hyperbole. This site is intentionally profane and somewhat simplifies policy issues for dramatic and comedic effect.

In light of some of the attacks that have been made against me and people close to me, I'm not going to be giving any spoken or filmed media interviews. However, you're welcome to email me at dontbeanefuckingidiot@gmail.com

Jesse Richardson, Brisbane.

*Update: It has recently come to light that the lawyer who contacted my ISP was representing himself as being from the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, but despite being previously employed by the LNP says he wasn't acting on their behalf.