

## EA & STATE BRANCH ISSUES – 2018-2019

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Newspaper articles and other media have been quoted with the corresponding link, however as a subscription to larger newspapers is usually required to read the full article, the article has been copied / excerpts and included where possible.

*Horses' Mouth Comment - Referencing the number of times EA and their State Branches have appeared in National, International and Regional media it is clear who the culprit is for bringing the (Equestrian) Sport into Disrepute.*

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#deaths ,#eventing, #EA chair, #distraction, #safety,# MacKinlay, #inquest, #lack of co operation, #Olivia Inglis, #obfuscation

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## CORONIAL INQUEST 2019

#deaths ,#eventing, #EA chair, #distraction, #safety,# MacKinlay, #inquest, #lack of co operation, #Olivia Inglis, #obfuscation

## INQUEST TOLD INVESTIGATOR WAS SHUT DOWN- May 24 2019

A safety investigator was left "frustrated" after her efforts to examine the circumstances surrounding the death of a 17-year-old girl at a NSW equestrian event were shut down and her final report altered, an inquest has heard.....Following the death of Olivia Inglis at the Scone Horse Trials in March 2016,.....

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6181036/inquest-told-investigator-was-shut-down/?cs=14231&sfns=mo>

## AND

<https://www.facebook.com/berni.saunders.7/posts/10157490241207833>

During July and September 2019, we saw 2 tranches of a 3 week long **Coronial Inquest** which showed 32 areas where the sport (**proper due diligence and safety measures**) failed two young riders, who sadly lost their lives. The (EA) Chair at that time (A Lawyer) described this awful time as a "distraction" but worse his comments revealed that EA had not taken the criticisms and advice seriously.

## AND

## EQUESTRIAN CHIEF ALISTAIR MACKINLAY STEPS DOWN AMID INQUESTS FURORE

#deaths ,#eventing, #EA chair, #distraction, #safety,# MacKinlay

Equestrian Australia chair Alistair MacKinlay has stepped down after losing the support of the board one day after he triggered a backlash for **labelling the inquests into the high-profile deaths of teenage riders Olivia Inglis and Caitlyn Fischer a "distraction"**.



<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/equestrian-chief-alistair-mackinlay-steps-down-after-calling-inquests-into-rider-deaths-a-distraction/news-story/935a7baf137e6c733a4a4929f3a3f60a?fbclid=IwAR3Eo-rdyiSCrga6MGSz8LmM2sH1rT3ChS0JJEkJWV5vF6Amow-PVd9okAw>

## 2019 EA ANNUAL REPORT

#Chair, #MacKinley, #inquest, #Zoetis, #funding, #yellow card, #Hendra,#sponsorship, #resignation, #Ricky MacMillan, #board

## HORSES MOUTH COMMENT:

I've just wasted 5 minutes of my life that I can't get back reading part of the EA Annual report, the Chair and CEO statements. I have never read so much self-serving, back slapping drivel. It bears no resemblance to how this board has functioned over this last year. Once again, the board has lurched

from one disaster to another. When will the State's get sick of supporting a National Body that is a disgrace?

Alistair MacKinley's syrupy 'trust statement' was followed by an outrageous comment completely lacking in compassion, regarding the inquest EA had been involved in this year. This abomination was followed by a trite statement regarding 'yellow cards', where the outcome of one has cost the organisation big time in legal fees with absolutely no result; no one has been sanctioned for the abuse of a horse at an event, 'whoever it was' got away with it (I am making no implications regarding the alleged perpetrator, but 'someone' was responsible. Where's the follow-up?). And all this without mentioning the latest 'Hendra' debacle with the FEI, where like Colonel Klink, EA 'knew nothing'!

**LINK**

<https://www.instantflipbook.com/flipbooks/1ea2fd2b07/?page=8>

The impressive wash-up from this is yet another change of chair and board member, Alistair MacKinley, vacating the seat and his place on the board. In the great EA tradition of lack of transparency, EA's CEO, Lucy Warhurst's message re the latest board transition sheds absolutely no light or explanation on anything other than the bare facts, Alistair out, Ricky in. One can only read between the lines!

**LINK**

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/news/message-ea-ceo>

I read with alarm the 'Internet Platform' statement and can only hope that it doesn't become the financial black hole that the ill-fated 'Equinect' morphed into. Let's hope that the Board looks beyond their own board members and puts out legitimate external tenders for any work in this department this time.

The 'Increase in Revenue' statement left me cold, especially after EA's previous ill fated 'Zoetis' sponsorship mess. The Board need to recognise that the wishes of the Branches grass roots members must be considered in the 'type' of sponsorship that is acceptable and the Branch members right to privacy. I seem to remember that there was also a short lived 'card' fiasco in the past.



### **3 TRIBUNALS AND ALMOST A FUNERAL.....**

#EQ, #Branch, #tampering, #dressage, #Boston Toft, #Peter Toft, #injustice, #unfair, #unobtainable, #State Branches, #mediation, #justice, #complaint, #integrity, #judge, #liar, #Cheat, #threats

<https://www.facebook.com/olivia.kilgore.54/posts/1661350404019064>

A keyboard warrior has been very vocal on the recent petition for change that's circulating towards EA. She states that "apparently, Berni Saunders is leading a group of people who have very strong views on how the organisation of our sport should change".

The keyboard warrior goes on urging all members to approach your relevant State organisation and talk to them about why they disagree with change.

The keyboard warrior is saddened to see a “revolving door of officials, but unless and until this “group” of concerned individuals can provide specifics about their motivation she thinks that we simply don’t like the ways things are”.

In 2019, there were 3 tribunals conducted at the hands of Equestrian Queensland. A lawyer chaired each tribunal, although the QLD 2019 Annual Report did not disclose any legal expenses appointed to such work.

I am led to believe from a fly on the wall, that the files of the 3 tribunals I am going to discuss were presented to the EA Board, on Monday 11th May.

A conflict of interest was noted, as Peter Toft, is the Uncle of the CEO of EQ, Briston Toft, and Cathi Collier, was named as the instigator of one of the most disturbing injustices I have ever exposed. Prior to my tribunal, I rang the riders of the other tribunals to find out what to expect. It was then I hired a lawyer to protect me and my child.

Ricky MacMillan said change at EA had been “unobtainable”. She wasn’t talking about you or me. Ricky was talking about the present EA Board and the structure and set up of the states.

The vision she had when she took the chair of EA was a sport for the members – each participating member in each state would have a voice and be listened to. Circumstances meant that as hard as she tried, this was unobtainable with the current structure of the organisation. Ricky could not stand by and see the interests of members overlooked.

Every member must vote to get Ricky reappointed. This means ousting the current board. Hopefully after reading the 3 tribunals, members will vote for change so no one ever has to go thru what I am about to write.

### Tribunal 1

My family’s life changed on the 30th June 2019. We attended the QLD Youth Dressage Championships, where a judge tampered with my daughter’s test paper. A protest was sought and instead of the event coordinators assisting me in my right to question the actions of this judge, I was left to discuss my concerns on a wheelie bin in a public walkway. See photo attached.

I later found out that Madonna Bell, a complainant, sought advice from Samantha Duffy, EQ Operations Manager and Cathie Drury-Klein, a FEI level official. After Bell’s initial action to “yellow card” me failed (I am a non-member), Samantha Duffy and Cathie Drury-Klein suggested Bell lodge a complaint with the State Office, which she did.

Even though the judge tampered with my daughter’s test paper, I did not lodge a complaint against the judge. I caught her out, she knew I caught her out, and I was happy to leave it at

that. An FEI steward later told me that test paper tampering had been a common concern in Queensland, and he thought it had been stamped out. Clearly not!

The judge, made it clear in the Tribunal that she never lodged a complaint against me, only a statement of events on the request of Anita Barton and Sam Duffy. Sam Duffy advised that she was only obtaining my side of events and that it would most likely go away.

**My alleged incident went straight to Tribunal. No mediation was offered.**

I rang David Finch asking him to shut the tribunal down. He did nothing.

I rang Sam Duffy numerous times asking her to shut the tribunal down. She did nothing.

My twin sister rang Sam Duffy numerous times asking her to shut the tribunal down and mediate. She did nothing.

I spoke to Peter Toft, Uncle of Briston Toft, asking him to shut the tribunal down. He did nothing.

I spoke to Briston Toft, CEO of EQ, asking him to shut the tribunal down and conduct a round table discussion so both parties could learn from this and make positive changes. He did nothing.

I spoke to Andrew Hamilton, Integrity Manager, asking him to shut the tribunal down. He did nothing. **An urgent review into the Integrity Managers role is needed.**

**All my calls for mediation** were ignored, and a Tribunal date was set for the 11th September 2019.

Neither complainants, Madonna Bell or Anita Barton, witnessed what precipitated the conversation, or the start of the conversation, nor did they see or hear the intervention by the judge. Even though the tribunal Chair, John Mullins, states.... "There was considerable discussion in relation to the judging and the behaviour of the judges which gave rise to this incident.

Whilst this may relate to provocation and may relate to the issue of penalty, we do not see that any aspect of the judging and the behaviour of the judges is relevant to the issue of whether the respondent (me) called the judge a liar and cheat".

The only matter the Tribunal needs to determine is whether I said the words cheat or liar. The Tribunal is not required to determine what happened in the lead up to these words being spoken.

Still to this day, I am dumbfounded that **Equestrian Queensland is not concerned that a judge tampered with a minor's test paper.** Equestrian Queensland is only interested if I called the judge a cheat or a liar.

So what do you call a judge that tampers with a test paper???

Re the judge:

**Phillipa Bowden** Oh she didn't admit it she was caught out lying. She to this day says she changed it at the arena (after changing her story). It is just we had an affidavit from the sheet collector which affirmed my statement saying the sheet was collected straight after piper rode. So it could only have been changed in the score room. Karma will catch up with all of them. I am will laugh the biggest belly laugh ever

Briston Toft et al, has threatened my daughter with extortion, sent my unpaid fine to a debt collector, and threatened me with

physical force and removal if I watch my daughter ride.

If the present EQ structure affords this treatment to a non-member, what the hell do they do to their members?

Who reprimands Briston Toft et al?

Who questions Sam Duffy's ability to investigate a Tribunal?

Has the staff of EQ been given proper training in conflict management? Who audits their training? Conflict is good when managed correctly.

Had we sat down to mediate, I could have told him that a room for protests/complaints is needed at large events. A complaint form should be drawn up to make the process simpler. Who holds the cash? Make it cashless and payable 24 hours after. Nup! Briston Toft et al, just wanted to destroy me and the current processes allows him to do this.

For me the saddest part about my Tribunal is that I thought I was going into a gun show with a gun. In hindsight, I was going into a gun show with a water pistol.

I later found out that my "independent" tribunal was in fact a biased closed shop.

Briston Toft, gave Madonna Bell, the judge, and John Wilson a set of questions that he asked them during the tribunal. This was discovered when the judge informed Briston that he had one more question to ask her.

The Tribunal Chair, Mr John Mullins, has been a client of EQ and Softball Queensland for many years.

John Mullins is seen presenting an award at the 2016 EQ Awards Night. He looks very dapper.

Mr Ross Symonds, CEO of Softball Queensland, sat on the tribunal panel.

Softball Queensland pay Mr Mullins for his expertise.

The relationship between Briston Toft, CEO of EQ, Ross Symonds, CEO of Softball Queensland, and John Mullins, Mullins Lawyers, was not highlighted to me at all before or during the Tribunal.



I did not stand a chance in winning my tribunal.

The current structure is not healthy and does not prompt growth and stability.

**HERE IS THE FULL TRANSCRIPT FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING.**

[https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Olivia%20sy%2Btribunal2&epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Olivia%20sy%2Btribunal2&epa=SEARCH_BOX)

### RE - 3 TRIBUNALS AND ALMOST A FUNERAL

Equestrian Queensland started this mess.

Equestrian Queensland was responsible that funding was pulled and EA went into VA.

Equestrian Queensland agreed to go to the National Sports Tribunal, then revoked. Why? Is it because Equestrian Queensland didn't follow due process?

The Equestrian Queensland lawyer has written via Briston Toft numerous times informing me that procedural fairness and due process was followed. If that's the case, why not agree to attend the NST?

Not once has Briston Toft been concerned about the welfare of the victims and their families of the 3 tribunals held in Queensland in 2019.

**There is a loophole at the moment that all parties have to agree to the NST or a review cannot go ahead.**

This loophole is closing in.

Briston Toft agreed to everything Korda Mentha submitted and went against the other States.

Korda Mentha agreed to attend the NST.

It's time Briston Toft to agree to the NST or Queensland will be famous once again for all the wrong reasons.

#### TRANSCRIPT FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING -REGARDING EQ AND TRIBUNALS

# National Sport Tribunal, # funding, # EQ, # arbitration, # jurisdiction,

Proceedings suspended from 21:08 to 21:22

CHAIR: We will continue with outcome 3, Sport and recreation, and I'll now go to Senator Patrick.

Senator PATRICK: My first set of questions relates to Equestrian Australia and to matters before the NST.

My understanding is that Equestrian Australia has three matters that have been referred to the NST and have been accepted by the NST—so there have been three complaints about tribunal matters that, again have gone to the NST.

Equestrian Australia have agreed to attend, but Equestrian Queensland have refused to participate. My understanding is that there are rules associated with funding and complying with tribunal arrangements. Can someone help me out here?

Mr Boulton: As far as funding arrangements are concerned, that would be a matter for Sport Australia, but, as far as matters coming before the NST are concerned, we have had five applications from the equestrian community, but, under our legislation, it's an arbitral tribunal and can only hear matters where all the parties agree.

I think, Senator, you're referring to three matters that involved three individuals, Equestrian Queensland and Equestrian Australia.

The National Sports Tribunal was, is and remains ready to hear all of those matters when all the parties agree to them coming to the NST, the National Sports Tribunal.

At one stage, all parties did, and then Equestrian Queensland withdrew their agreement, and that deprived us of jurisdiction.

Senator PATRICK: I know this is not a matter for the tribunal. I presume you are a bit like any normal tribunal in that you abide by very strict rules. You were denied jurisdiction. So maybe I will direct this at the COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE.

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minister. Obviously I imagine you'd be concerned. A legitimate complaint has been made. It has been accepted, but you have a body that simply refuses to participate.

The system doesn't work if that's allowed to happen. I wonder if there is any way in which Sport Australia can direct that money not be provided to Queensland in some way to coerce them into participating, or indeed whether or not the legislation needs to be changed.

Senator Colbeck: The Sports Tribunal has been set up in its current guise in a specific way. As Mr Boulton has said, it does rely on all parties agreeing to participate in a hearing process. With respect to funding from the Commonwealth to equestrian via Sport Australia, I'd have to take on notice the circumstance around whether or not funding might be withheld in the context of these circumstances, although, with respect to equestrian, I suspect that there may be some particular circumstances that exist with funding from Sport Australia at the moment anyway, given the other processes that equestrian is going through as far as its actual composition is concerned.

But from a government prospective, I can say that I am concerned—you and I have had conversations with respect to this before—with respect to some of the dispute resolution processes and procedures that I've been made aware of through equestrian sport. I would be suggesting very strongly to the parties that they avail themselves of the services of the National Sports Tribunal. I'm not sure where there is any recourse I might have. I am happy to take that question on notice. Mr Dalton might be able to provide some advice about that. I am very happy to put on the public record that I am quite concerned in relation to some of the practices around dispute resolution that I have been informed of in the equestrian sport. I would be extremely anxious that those are appropriately resolved both by the sport themselves to improve their practices—I expect that they do that—and I would very strongly suggest to the parties that they avail themselves of the services of the National Sports Tribunal so there can be a fair and independent process that resolves the issues. I'm not aware of the specifics of the ones that you're talking about, but that was the purpose we set National Sports Tribunal up for, so it could in a fair and independent way adjudicate on some of those issues. My view is that the processes that I have seen within Equestrian Australia are simply not up to scratch. They need to be improved, and we have in place at this point in time a vehicle for a fair hearing to be held with respect to the disputes that you're talking about.

Senator PATRICK: Thank you for putting your very strong position on the record. Maybe you could invite Mr Dalton to suggest if there is any remedy that he may be able to think of.

Mr Dalton: I support the comments of the minister wholeheartedly. Sport Australia did introduce the National Sports Tribunal and Mr Boulton to Equestrian Australia and to complaints that had been made. The complainants—we strongly supported Equestrian Australia under their temporary regime at the moment to in fact engage, which they have done. As the minister pointed out, there is a temporary halt on funding whilst the organisation is restructured. But I will point out that we provide no funding to the states, and, of course, the nuance of the hybrid federated model is that the states, in fact, own the national sporting organisation. It is a nuance that we would love to have resolved, but, at this point in time, I'm not sure that we have any jurisdiction other than ceasing funding that may go to a national body—and ongoing. And, of course, we're not providing any funding at this particular point.

Senator PATRICK: I take it from your statement, Minister, that we can continue a dialogue on this. I'm very interested in this issue as well, from a point of view of fairness.

Senator Colbeck: I'm happy to continue to work through this with you, Senator. As I've said, some of the things that I've read with respect to the processes within the sport of equestrian are very disturbing. They need to be resolved, and I would see the availability of the National Sports Tribunal as a very good way for that process to start.

Senator PATRICK: Thank you, Minister. Mr Dalton, I understand that EA is currently in voluntary administration; is that correct?

Mr Dalton: That's correct.

Senatr PATRICK: Korda Mentha are the administrators. Is the Commonwealth paying any part of Korda Mentha's fees?

Mr Dalton: No, we're not.

Senator PATRICK: In respect of the high performance program for Equestrian Australia, how much money has gone to Equestrian Australia over the last couple of financial years?

Mr Dalton: Senator, I might call upon the head of the Australian Institute of Sport, Peter Conde, to answer that.

<https://www.facebook.com/stopbullyinginequestrian/posts/2808128969463854>



### Stop Bullying in Equestrian Sports



November 5 · 🌐

THE NEED FOR CHANGE - this is what the Federal Sports Minister had to say about the dispute resolution practices in equestrian sport in Senate Estimates last week 🙄🙄🙄. SBIES have long been advocating for changes to the ineffective, unkind & outdated dispute resolution practices used by the state branches & Equestrian Australia. The sport is effectively on notice. Either we reform or we risk losing government funding. Signing up to the National Sports Tribunal (NST) is a must for all state branches & EA if we are to make the required improvements & bring our procedures in line with industry best-practice.

“I am quite concerned in relation to some of the practices around dispute resolution that I have been informed of in equestrian sport. I would be extremely anxious those are appropriately resolved”

SENATOR RICHARD COLBECK - MINISTER FOR SPORT



19 November 2019, Moscow (RUS)

legislation and now when the Romanian Veterinary Authority's eradication campaign on EIA has been successful in parts of the country EU voted on 24 September that parts of Romania will regain the same health status as the rest of the EU while other parts where outbreaks of EIA still occur, would remain with the same restrictions as before.

Hendra Virus – The Veterinary Committee and Veterinary Department has gathered information on the current situation in Australia in regards of Hendra Virus. Hendra Virus is a rare emerging zoonosis that causes severe and often fatal disease in both infected horses and humans. There is no specific treatment for human cases and there are major workplace risk mitigation procedures that must be implemented if it is considered that a horse may be infected. There is a registered Hendra animal vaccine and vaccination is considered an effective way to reduce risk of horses becoming infected and reducing the risk of human exposure. Currently there is no requirement for horses to be vaccinated to attend FEI Events and this is making it difficult to find veterinarians willing to officiate and/or treat horses at FEI events. The Veterinary Committee will decide whether to propose that horses from Hendra virus affected areas must be vaccinated against the disease in order to attend FEI Events.

## ARE EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA MEMBERS BEING HELD TO RANSOM BY A UNION?

#Hendra, #vets, #vaccine, #Zoetis, #FEI, #vaccination, #Neil, #Class Action, #Equine deaths,

On 19 November, the Australian Head FEI Vet - Kirsten Neil - will be attending the FEI to push through mandatory Hendra vaccination for all Australian events that have an FEI class.

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=10217815793924411&id=100008706963080&substory\\_index=25](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=10217815793924411&id=100008706963080&substory_index=25)

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/news/statement-ea-chair?fbclid=IwAR1Mh7AXikPleaeCnbaaWBlr8-JTBF1Xmun8i61w4rkX-grbTzashBDq9U>

## UPDATE ON CLASS ACTION AFTER LAST FRIDAY'S 30 AUGUST, WIN FOR THE HORSES AND THEIR OWNERS

#Hendra, #vets, #vaccine, #Zoetis, #vaccination, #Class Action, #Equine deaths, #costs,

.....Zoetis failed on security for costs application. There are no costs to join the class action. The avenue for appeal by Zoetis has been lost.....

At the end of the hearing, the Full Bench unanimously refused the Leave Application and Zoetis were ordered to pay the Lead Applicant's costs incurred in defending the Application.

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=2505447289687670&id=100006672704919](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2505447289687670&id=100006672704919)

[https://claims.lhd.com.au/hendra-virus-class-action/?fbclid=IwAR3mNR99YP0X53bt1xA2DVVrC55JWpH1Jnv3vf\\_ez\\_LxEEGExiZHnl\\_V5Bo](https://claims.lhd.com.au/hendra-virus-class-action/?fbclid=IwAR3mNR99YP0X53bt1xA2DVVrC55JWpH1Jnv3vf_ez_LxEEGExiZHnl_V5Bo)

## ALLEGED RAPIST PERMITTED TO CONTINUE COMPETING

#National news, #International news, #disrepute, #committal, #trial, #rape, #stalking, #competition, #victim, #charges, #Buczak, #high performance, #Victoria, #branch, #safety, #protection, #disrepute

## **RIDER STILL COMPETING, DESPITE RAPE CHARGE**

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_WRE170\\_a\\_FBK&dest=](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a_FBK&dest=)



<https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fsport%2Folympics%2Fequestrian-australia-faces-p>

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From the Daily Mail 26/9/19

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7500711/Dreadlocked-eventing-champion-Callum-Buczakis-charged-raping-fellow-rider.html>

### **DREADLOCKED EVENTING CHAMPION IS CHARGED WITH RAPING A FELLOW RIDER AND FACES CALLS TO BE BANNED FROM THE SPORT**

- Callum Buczak, from Melbourne, was charged with alleged rape in August
- Equestrian Australia said the alleged rape did not take place at any EA events
- The woman has reportedly withdrawn from competitions to avoid Buczak
- “The woman has withdrawn from competitions to avoid Buczak, reported The Age.

Buczak was once on Equestrian Australia's high-performance eventing squad - but is not currently on the national team.

He will appear at Melbourne Magistrate's Court on October 4 for a committal hearing. “

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**INFORMATION - WHAT IS A COMMITTAL HEARING?**

And from <https://www.armstronglegal.com.au/.../committ.../yes/hearing>

The major purposes of a committal hearing are to attempt to have the charges dismissed by a Magistrate; to discover all of the evidence against you; and to find out further details surrounding the case so that you can prepare for your trial.

..... the Magistrate must decide whether, the prosecution evidence is capable of satisfying a reasonable jury, properly instructed, beyond reasonable doubt that you have committed an indictable offence. If the Magistrate does not believe the evidence would satisfy a jury, the Magistrate will dismiss the charges. If the Magistrate believes the evidence would satisfy a jury the hearing continues.

.... After all the evidence is given the Magistrate must decide whether or not there is a reasonable prospect that a reasonable jury, properly instructed, would convict you of an indictable offence. If the Magistrate does not believe the evidence would satisfy a jury, the Magistrate will dismiss the

charges. If the Magistrate believes the evidence would satisfy a jury, the Magistrate will commit you to the District Court for trial.

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### **HORSES MOUTH OPINION - SO, WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?**

That having his membership suspended making him ineligible to compete in official competitions will not have any effect on the accused's international aspirations as he is not in the running.

That the alleged victim is a victim a second time by needing to cease competitions to avoid the accused. Suspending the accused from membership would have negated her need to do this.

That after the committal hearing on October 4th the case against the accused will either continue or be dismissed. Perhaps it's at this stage that the Vic Branch of EA should reconsider their position regarding the accused's membership if the case will face court. Obviously, he is innocent until found guilty, however this is a serious matter and a suspension at this point would be prudent until a verdict is reached. This would show respect for the alleged victim and acknowledge that the sport recognises the protection of women, if proven Buczak has brought equestrian sport into into disrepute as has the inaction by the Victorian Branch and Equestrian Australia

To my knowledge its now 3 national newspapers that have run this story, this is very bad P.R for equestrian sports. I re-iterate that the accused's membership is with the Vic Branch, not EA. The only members of EA are the branches, whilst E.A. can direct the branch, it is the branch that has the power to take action.

POSTSCRIPT – Buczak's membership has since been suspended

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<https://dailylists.magistratesvic.com.au/EFAS/CaseCRI?CaseID=88869013>

Case No K12117478

Hearing – Monday, 9 December 2019 10:00AM

Prosecuting Agency – Victoria Police - -Frankston

Accused -Buczak, Callum Edward

Hearing Type- Committal- Sex offence

<https://dailylists.magistratesvic.com.au/EFAS/CaseCRI?CaseID=88869013>

K12117478

<https://www.news.com.au/national/victoria/courts-law/equestrian-callum-buczak-accused-of-stalking-alleged-rape-victim-in-soap-opera-case/news-story/66cd9b72e166d08d1ac29b609e273fba#:~:text=Equestrian%20Callum%20Buczak%20accused%20of,victim%20in%20'soap%20opera'%20case&text=Elite%20rider%20Callum%20Buczak%2C%2028,trace%20the%20woman's%20online%20activity.>



### **EQUESTRIAN CALLUM BUCZAK ACCUSED OF STALKING ALLEGED RAPE VICTIM IN 'SOAP OPERA' CASE**

An Olympic hopeful and his girlfriend allegedly stalked and harassed a woman who accused the man of rape in a case that resembles a "soap opera".

..... A trial for Mr Buczak for the alleged rape has been set down for May. He has strenuously denied the charges against him.

**Mr Buczak and Ms McDonough will return to court in July 2021.**

AND

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/rape-charge-rider-got-partner-to-stalk-alleged-victim-court-papers-say-20200522-p54vjd.html>



### **RAPE CHARGE RIDER GOT PARTNER TO STALK ALLEGED VICTIM, COURT PAPERS SAY**

Court documents released to The Age on Friday show police allege Ms McDonough "surreptitiously" traced the victim's online activity and sent it to Mr Buczak to cause the victim "self harm" or to fear for her safety, between February 2019 and March 2020.

Mr Buczak, who is facing 12 new charges, was on bail for the alleged rape when much of the alleged harassment took place but police have not moved to revoke his bail.

The fresh charges include allegations he encouraged Ms McDonough to trace the online activity of his alleged victim and send him the woman's travel plans between February and December 2019.

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<https://www.facebook.com/TheREDHEARTCampaign/posts/callum-buczak-28-is-set-to-face-trial-next-year-for-the-alleged-rape-of-a-woman-/3018767381493959/>

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/fresh-charges-for-equestrian-eventer-accused-of-raping-fellow-rider-20200520-p54ut7.html>

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## **EVENTER ACCUSED OF RAPING FELLOW RIDER CHARGED WITH ALLEGED STALKING**

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<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8346547/Glamorous-equestrian-rider-accused-trying-drive-rape-victim-self-harm.html>

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Tuesday, Nov 24th 2020

### **EXCLUSIVE: GLAMOROUS EQUESTRIAN RIDER, 28, IS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO DRIVE HER BOYFRIEND'S ALLEGED RAPE VICTIM TO SUICIDE IN AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF STAND BY YOUR MAN**

- Alexandra McDonough is accused of stalking her boyfriend's alleged victim
- Callum Buczak, 28, has pleaded not guilty to raping the woman
- Both have been accused of trying to intimidate the alleged victim
- Buczak is a champion equestrian horse rider and an Olympic hopeful

While the alleged rape is not claimed to have happened at an official equestrian event, Buczak's 2019 charge has reportedly prompted calls for him to be barred from the competitive sport until the matter has been resolved.

Equestrian Australia later moved to suspend his membership, with his alleged victim withdrawing from competitions.

