



[National](#) | [World](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Travel](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Technology](#) | [Finance](#) | [Sport](#)**national** ▶ **breaking news**

## Govt backs financial crimes watchdog

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has backed the head of the financial crime watchdog AUSTRAC, saying she has taken the agency to unprecedented success.

Colin Brinsden

Australian Associated Press ● MARCH 1, 2020 12:35PM

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has given his overwhelming backing to the head of the financial crimes watchdog, after a media report suggested AUSTRAC sat on vital evidence regarding online child exploitation.

A News Corp investigation into the \$75 million Westpac money laundering scandal, linked to child exploitation that was revealed by AUSTRAC last year, claims the watchdog's CEO Nicole Rose bungled and sat on vital evidence.

Asked on ABC television's Insiders program whether AUSTRAC sat on evidence, Mr Dutton who has responsibility for the independent agency said: "No, it didn't."

"And this hatchet job on Nicole Rose should be seen for what it is," he said.

"Nicole has taken AUSTRAC to an unprecedented level of success not only with the banks, but many of the criminal syndicates that they're now working on with the ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) and the Australian Federal Police and their state counterparts as well."

But Labor's home affairs spokeswoman Kristina Keneally believes there are serious questions to be answered about AUSTRAC's protocols and processes when it becomes aware of suspected child abuse.

"These are serious matters that Labor will pursue, and enquire about at the upcoming Senate estimates this week," she told reporters in Sydney.

"I am concerned that it seems to demonstrate the minister Peter Dutton is not across all aspects of his portfolio in matters as serious of these."



MORE IN BREAKING NEWS ^

Investors will be 'twit- chy' when ASX opens

Australia backs US- Taliban agreement

NSW sergeant charged with fraud, stalking

Other case contaminated Claremont twig

Jump back to top ^

Find us

Advertise

About Us

Newsletters

Connect

Download the App

Be rewarded for your opinions

Privacy Policy | Relevant Ad Opt-Out | Cookie Policy | Terms & Conditions

A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collect information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. Find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out.

News Pty Limited Copyright © 2020. All times AEDT (GMT +11).

Powered by WordPress.com VIP