

Re: fyi [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]   
 Alastair Furnival to:

11/02/2014 06:06 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

**Alastair Furnival**  
 Chief of Staff

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11/02/2014 17:33:01

From:  
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 Date: 11/02/2014 17:33  
 Subject: fyi [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
 Furnival/MINISTER/Health@Health\_gov\_au,

### Lobbyist link to disappearing food website

- From: *AAP*
- February 11, 2014 1:39PM

**LABOR has questioned whether a senior staffer in the office of an Abbott government minister had a role in taking down a new food rating website because he was married to a lobbyist for the junk food industry.**

The new health star rating website, which provides nutritional information about food products, was removed just 20 hours after it began operation last week.

During question time on Tuesday, Opposition Senate leader Penny Wong quizzed assistant Health Minister Fiona Nash about the role her chief of staff Alastair Furnival played in the site's removal.

Mr Furnival was married to Tracey Ann Cain who owned the lobbying firm Australian Public Affairs which represents the Australian Beverages Council, Kraft and Cadbury, Senator Wong said.

The council and companies had opposed the website.

She also questioned whether there had been a breach of the ministerial staff code of conduct.

A draft form of the website inadvertently had gone up, Senator Nash said.

The rating system was not yet fully in place and would have been confusing for

consumers had it not been taken down.

The minister said she had directed Mr Furnival to have discussions with the health department about the issue.

"There is no connection whatsoever between my chief of staff and the company Australian Public Affairs," Senator Nash said.

Nor did he have any connection to the food industry.

"He's simply doing his job as my chief of staff."

Mr Furnival's LinkedIn profile shows him as an owner of Australian Public Affairs.

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