

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN INVESTIGATOR [REDACTED] AND
5 FRANK COLACICCO AT LEVEL 7 255 ELIZABETH STREET SYDNEY ON 1 JULY
2020

TIME: 11:30AM

PRESENT: [REDACTED]

10

[REDACTED]
FRANK COLACICCO

[REDACTED]:

All right, so this is an electronically recorded interview. The time is 11:30am, on Wednesday the 1st of July 2020. For the purposes of voice transcription, my name is [REDACTED], I'm an investigator with the Independent Commission Against Corruption. Seated directly to my right is Chief Investigator [REDACTED], who is also an officer of the Commission. Could I point to you please, Frank, and get you to spell your first name, for me your proper first name?

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COLACICCO: Francesco F-R-A-N-C-E-S-C-O.

20

[REDACTED]:

And your surname?

COLACICCO: Colacicco C-O-L-A-C-I-C-C-O.

[REDACTED]:

And I understand you go by the name Frank.

COLACICCO: Frank as well.

[REDACTED]:

Is that okay today?

25

COLACICCO:

Yes, that's fine, yep.

[REDACTED]:

Do you agree that, prior to the commencement of today's interview, I told you that you don't have to participate, this is a voluntary process?

COLACICCO: Yes.

[REDACTED]:

And do you also agree that I told you that we would be electronically recording your voice today?

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COLACICCO: Yes, correct.

[REDACTED]:

Okay, so, I'd also like to advise you that anything you say is going to be recorded and we can use this recording in Commissions proceedings if one does take place, okay. Do you understand that?

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COLACICCO: Yes, I do.

[REDACTED]:

Okay, you're okay with that?

COLACICCO: Yes.

[REDACTED]:

Do you also agree that I told you that, prior to this interview taking place, that pursuant to the ICAC Act, if you provide, deliberately provide false or misleading information to an officer of the Commission exercising their functions under the Act, you may be committing an offence. So any

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information you provide here today must be true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. Do you understand what I've said to you?

COLACICCO: Yes I do, yes.

[REDACTED]: Okay. Frank, can I get your current residential address, please?

COLACICCO: [REDACTED], Drummoyne.

[REDACTED]: How long have you been there for?

COLACICCO: Just on two years.

[REDACTED]: And your date of birth?

COLACICCO: [REDACTED] 1967

10 [REDACTED]: And your mobile phone number?

COLACICCO: [REDACTED] 6-6-8-1

[REDACTED]: Okay. Do you agree that I provided you with a letter offering you the opportunity to come today and participate in today's interview?

COLACICCO: Yes.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay. What I would like to do is to start with exploring your working history. Can you tell me what you are currently employed to do at the moment?

COLACICCO: Yep, I run a real estate office, I've been there close to thirty years. For the majority of the time we were Laing and Simmons until 2014, we became
20 CobdenHayson.

[REDACTED]: Forgive me if I'm looking down, I'm just going to record some notes. Then after 2014 you became CobdenHayson is that correct?

COLACICCO: Correct yes.

[REDACTED]: Do you have any other real estate interests?

25 COLACICCO: I have real estate interest in an office in Port Macquarie called HEM.

[REDACTED]: H –

COLACICCO: H-E-M.

[REDACTED]: HEM?

COLACICCO: Property.

30 [REDACTED]: And is that just a real estate office or is that a development company?

COLACICCO: No, real estate office.

[REDACTED]: Real estate.

COLACICCO: Yep.

[REDACTED]: What's the company behind HEM?

35 COLACICCO: Well, it's a trust, it's, like, I've got my own personal trust in there.

[REDACTED]: Okay.

COLACICCO: I think its HEM Properties in trust or something like that

[REDACTED]: Okay. Do you have any other real estate businesses?

COLACICCO: Not in, no.

40 [REDACTED]: No? Not in New South Wales, not in Australia?

COLACICCO: No other real estate businesses, CobdenHayson at Drummoyne and HEM Property.

██████: HEM. Do you have any other business interest?

COLACICCO: No, in reference to?

5 ██████: Any.

COLACICCO: No.

██████: Do you have development companies? Do you have sales companies? Or other –

COLACICCO: No, no, I've got, I have my family trust which is the shareholding in a lot of my real estate companies. I have been involved in the past in development, family business development.

10 ██████: Okay.

COLACICCO: But that was in, back in 2009, I think.

██████: That's fine, so currently your only business interests is HEM Property at Port Macquarie and CobdenHayson?

15 COLACICCO: Yes.

██████: Okay. And for the record there's three offices, I think, for CobdenHayson?

COLACICCO: No, there is five.

██████: There's five. Could you tell me where they are?

20 COLACICCO: Yep, there is Balmain, Annandale, Earlwood, us in Drummoyne and Lane Cove.

██████: Okay, and your role in CobdenHayson?

COLACICCO: My role is, I'm one of the major shareholders/directors in the Drummoyne office. And I'm basically in charge of running the office in Drummoyne, I'm the licensees in charge and the sole director of that company.

25 ██████: How long have you been a real estate agent for?

COLACICCO: Since 1993.

██████: Okay, all right. And what's your day-to-day work, what do you do in the office?

30 COLACICCO: My day-to-day work is, obviously, run the office. I've always specialised in, sort of like, because I come from a building background with, my father. I specialise in a lot of the development work in our office as well. But, list and sell houses, look after some property management, I mean obviously we've got a team that does it.

35 ██████: Yeah.

COLACICCO: I bring clients in and so on, so I'm pretty much hands on involved.

██████: Okay, so correct me if I'm wrong, but you go and source some clients for CobdenHayson. Is that right?

COLACICCO: Yeah. Its networking.

40 ██████: Yeah.

COLACICCO: It's what we've always done.

[REDACTED]: Sure.
 COLACICCO: Sort of like, I have been there for a long time, so I have a pretty good network.
 [REDACTED]: Okay all right. So you mentioned there was some development business in the family. Can we explore that a bit, what was that about? And when did that occur?
 5 COLACICCO: That was back in '98 and 2000, and we did two developments with my father, my uncle and my in-laws in Lilyfield.
 [REDACTED]: Okay, In Lilyfield. What was the name of the company that did those developments?
 10 COLACICCO: At the time there was Star Property Investments.
 [REDACTED]: Yep. And who was involved in Star Property Investments?
 COLACICCO: it was myself, my dad, my uncle and there was some other, like my in-laws and another gentleman that was involved in it at the time as well,
 15 called – he was from, he's here now, he was a friend of the family's, he had a share in it as well.
 [REDACTED]: Oh I see.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: What was his name?
 20 COLACICCO: Salvatore Becoraro B-E-C-O-R-A-R-O.
 [REDACTED]: And that's Star Property Investments?
 COLACICCO: That was.
 [REDACTED]: Does that –
 COLACICCO: No.
 25 [REDACTED]: Is that still active?
 COLACICCO: No.
 [REDACTED]: Do you have any other development companies?
 COLACICCO: No.
 [REDACTED]: All right. Any other business interests at all in terms of active businesses
 30 apart from your real estate and the previous property development company?
 COLACICCO: No, I had, I've got a company which was called, is Sydney City, Sydney 227 Proprietary Limited, which I did have an interest in a development in Drummoyne, but we've sold that property.
 35 [REDACTED]: Where was the development location?
 COLACICCO: It was at 227 and 231 Victoria Road, Drummoyne.
 [REDACTED]: When was that relative, when was that?
 COLACICCO: We sold it in April this year.
 [REDACTED]: Yep, who did you sell it to?
 40 COLACICCO: We sold it to a company, a developer, Henley Constructions.
 [REDACTED]: Hanley?

COLACICCO: Henley.
 [REDACTED]: Henley.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: H-E-N-L-E-Y?
 5 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: Can you tell me what was at the development at 227 - 231 Victoria Road?
 COLACICCO: It was, we purchased a shop and residence, and then the way the property was, it had an easement around a block of land next door, which was
 10 owned by the City of Canada Bay Council. So, my partners that were running, they basically approached council to purchase that, and we purchased that, they purchased it.
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: And it was determined through the JRPP, because obviously it was council land.
 15 [REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: And it had to be done externally.
 [REDACTED]: Who were the partners involved in this?
 COLACICCO: There was John Bartolotta, and then there was, he was he major, he was the person that ran it all.
 20 [REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: His company was Drummoyne Triple Eight, then there was another gentleman called [REDACTED]. His company was [REDACTED] I think, something like that. And I was, I had Sydney 227.
 [REDACTED]: 227.
 25 COLACICCO: With my business partner, in the real estate related to us.
 [REDACTED]: Who was your business partner?
 COLACICCO: Mia Fredricks.
 [REDACTED]: Mia, okay.
 COLACICCO: And we had a trust in there, which is 183 Victoria Road.
 30 [REDACTED]: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: Because this will probably be transcribed by somebody. Can you spell the two names. John Bartolotto was it?
 COLACICCO: John Bartolotta. B-A-R-T-O-L-O-T-T-A. He sold, before the transaction finished, he was in the process of selling his share to the other third party.
 35 [REDACTED]: Who, [REDACTED]?
 COLACICCO: [REDACTED] Marc.
 [REDACTED]: Marc, and [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]?
 COLACICCO: [REDACTED], yep.
 [REDACTED]: All right. What share did you hold as an interest in this development?
 40 COLACICCO: We held thirty-three point three, thir –.
 [REDACTED]: So, a third each.

COLACICCO:

Yep.

█:

Right okay. All right I might move on from that for now. What I'd like to do is explore your relationship with Angelo Tsirekas. Do you know who Angelo Tsirekas is?

5 COLACICCO:

Yes, I do.

█:

All right, can you tell me some background about your involvement with him, how it all started?

COLACICCO:

Yep.

█:

What the situation is?

10 COLACICCO:

Sure, we – I've probably known him for fifteen to twenty years. I started off – when I was started of my business there was, really no one really had a niche in going to in developments in our area. So, when we started off the office, the major agent that was in the area pretty much had the market sewn up in residential housing.

15 █:

Okay.

COLACICCO:

So, me having a background from building from my dad, I looked at, basically, the development side of things. So we started to put some sites together and sell them. So, I started to attend council meetings once a month on a Tuesday night, because that's when all the development application would be processed.

20

█:

Yep.

COLACICCO:

And I started to build a relationship up there with some developers and that, because I'd be in the gallery and I'd listen to developments and whatever. And some of it I had, we had put together. Obviously we would go through be approved. And then through a lot of sporting, like the Drummoyne water polo and the rugby Drummoyne rugby, through mutual friends, I, obviously, my business started to sponsor whatever, and I got involved in that way there. But with Angelo, we got introduced through mutual friends at the time he was on there as a councillor, and I knew a couple of the other councillors, one in particular because I, as a kid his mother used to look after us, because my mum used to work. And then, we just started to develop a friendship that became a friendship, a family friendship, with his wife and kids and the time. With this other mutual friends of ours.

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35 █:

Who was the mutual friend?

COLACICCO:

Mutual friend was a friend of ours, Frank Mecuri. He's a solicitor in Drummoyne, and we obviously started to get to know each other.

█:

Okay.

COLACICCO:

And you know, the kids were young, my kids, his kids, his wife and we started socialising.

40

█:

Right.

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COLACICCO: And we became good friends.

█: Okay, all right. So that was, what did you say, that was fifteen, twenty years ago?

COLACICCO: Probably fifteen, twenty years ago, yep.

5 █: All right. Are you a member of any political party?

COLACICCO: Ah, no.

█: Okay. Do you –

█: Sorry, have you ever been a member of a political party?

COLACICCO: I think I joined – I'm not sure if I joined the Liberal party at one stage, but

10 then I got out of it because I just wasn't, I think it's still at the time I joined. I've helped, whether it's been Liberal or Labor, with, you know, helping out at election time, things like that but nothing like that. I have never been a member of the party, yep.

█: Okay. All right that takes me onto my next question. Have you provided

15 any assistance to Angelo Tsirekas through any of his, either state or federal, campaigns?

COLACICCO: Only, I've attended, like, some dinners that they had or some functions.

█: Okay.

COLACICCO: I've attended. I've helped him in regards to, when there was things like,

20 they wanted to put posters up, I let him do that at either my place or my parents' place or some friends' places.

█: Right okay.

COLACICCO: That's all I've done.

█: Have you ever provided donations to any of Tsirekas's campaigns?

25 COLACICCO: I have, on the basis of whether it's been at a luncheon or a function.

█: Okay, and are you able to give us some details around those?

COLACICCO: We've, well there's been some that I've done through lunch where it's like it's been a lunch function that's been \$900.

█: Is that like buying a table? Or is it just a donation, cash donation?

30 COLACICCO: No, it's a donation.

█: Okay.

COLACICCO: And I think I've got some receipts, I can get those.

█: Okay.

COLACICCO: But I'm pretty sure that's the only help that we've done.

35 █: All right. So apart from allowing for some corflutes to be put up at properties, some donations, that's the only help you've provided?

COLACICCO: Yep.

█: Okay, do you remember how many events you've attended?

COLACICCO: Not off the top of my head.

40 █: Okay.

COLACICCO: I've been to probably about four or five.

██████: Okay. Have you ever obtained donations on behalf of other persons to give to Tsirekas?

COLACICCO: Only if they have come to me at a function and they have had to pay for it, I have, yes.

5 ██████: And can you explain what occurred on those occasions?

COLACICCO: We, basically, they pay the same amount as I do, and they got a receipt back for attending the function.

██████: I see. And they went through you on those occasion?

10 COLACICCO: On a couple of occasions, it was like my business partner or a friend that will come with me.

██████: Okay, and can you tell me, I'm just trying to understand, was this for his mayoral campaigns or is this for a federal campaign?

COLACICCO: No, it was for a mayoral campaign.

██████: Okay.

15 COLACICCO: And then it was for, when he sat, at the state, I think he ran for the state seat.

██████: Right okay. And on those occasions do you remember – can you explain to me why those persons would come to you and put their donations?

20 COLACICCO: Not that they came to me. We're a group of friends that meet every Friday morning, just about. So we all just basically said, we are going to attend, yes we are. It's eight hundred, nine hundred dollar whatever the amount was, five hundred dollars and we'd go, as a group.

██████: Right. And is it the situation that everyone would kick into the kitty, I suppose?

25 COLACICCO: Not kick in, individually.

██████: Individually.

COLACICCO: They just pay individually. Are you going to this, yeah I'm going, we going to go, okay we'll go together.

██████: All right.

30 COLACICCO: That's basically it.

██████: And you would pay on behalf of them?

COLACICCO: No.

██████: As for donations?

COLACICCO: No, no, no. I'd pay, they'd pay theirs and if I had to, like, if they say to me,

35 ██████: Oh okay.

COLACICCO: That would only happen a couple of times.

██████: So, you just need a facilitator for the –.

COLACICCO: Yep, yep.

40 ██████: All right, no worries. So, have you provided any other support towards Tsirekas campaigns at all?

COLACICCO: Bot towards his campaigns, no.

█: All right. Are you able to elaborate on any other support towards Tsirekas?

COLACICCO: Look, Angelo's has had a pretty messy divorce.

█: Okay.

5 COLACICCO: And unfortunately we got thrown, a few of us got thrown into the firing line, at first. And his wife was quite angry with us and upset with us. There was a period where he had a few issues, and where, you know, he came to me as a friend, and I tried to help because of the relationship we had with the families, and his daughters in particular as well. So, he's asked me a few times for some money, which I lent him as a friend and he owes it back to me. And he's been waiting for this dispute to finish with his house.

10 █: Okay.

COLACICCO: Because there was a pretty ugly dispute there. But I think that's coming to an end soon, because I've been waiting for that, for once they sell the house, for him to pay me back what he owes me.

15 █: Well on that. What, what money did you give him?

COLACICCO: I've lent him, I've lent him fifteen thousand, and I've lent him, of late, I gave him another three. He owes me about twenty-one all up, twenty-one, twenty-two thousand all up.

20 █: Okay. And what was the purpose of you giving him this money?

COLACICCO: Look, he came to me for help and we are good friends, for years and so on and he said I need some money I've got no money, I need some money. And I said okay look I can help you, and I did.

█: Do you know when this occurred?

25 COLACICCO: A couple of years ago, I gave him the fifteen.

█: Right.

COLACICCO: Then he asked me for three, he was going away to a trip, overseas I think, with the Tigers or something, so I lent him some money then. Then, I gave him another three thousand, just, oh it would have been maybe, I'm just trying to think, not beginning of last year, just, he was out of work, he was out of work. He wasn't in the council I think it was 2018 something like that, I gave him the other three thousand.

30 █: So, to the best of your recollection he was not employed at all?

COLACICCO: He wasn't, it was a period where he wasn't going through the –he didn't have, I think he had lost the state election or something like that. I helped him out then.

35 █: Yeah okay. What's the, lets focus on the three thousand dollars cash, when do you think you gave that to him, in that period or was that more recent?

COLACICCO: No, no, no, it was two years ago.

40 █: I see.

COLACICCO: It could be 2018. 2000... Yeah 2018.

[REDACTED]: How did you give him that cash?
 COLACICCO: I just gave it to him cash. I had it, I took it out of the bank, I had it and I gave it to him cash.

[REDACTED]: All right, and this is, what did you say, two years ago?
 5 COLACICCO: Approximately two years ago. Look, I could check, I would have to have a look.

[REDACTED]: Okay, do you remember what the denominations of the cash was?
 COLACICCO: Oh, it was it from the bank, I think I got out fifties and some hundreds, yeah and I gave him that.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay. And you had an understanding with Angelo that that would be repaid to you, is that correct?
 COLACICCO: Yes, he's always said to me as soon as I sell the house, I'll pay you back the money.

[REDACTED]: Okay, So, and the other cash that you gave him, the fifteen thousand odd dollars –
 15 COLACICCO: No, that was, I transferred it to him, it wasn't cash.

[REDACTED]: Okay, the transfer of monies from your account to his.
 COLACICCO: Ten thousand and five thousand.

[REDACTED]: Ten and five. Do you know when that took place?
 20 COLACICCO: A couple of years ago, about 2018, I think it was yeah.

[REDACTED]: And was that the same purpose, because he needed the money?
 COLACICCO: He just needed money, he didn't, he had – one of the girls had moved in with him. He was having a lot of problems with his ex-wife.

[REDACTED]: Right.
 25 COLACICCO: And he just said, mate, can you help me out with some money. Eventually he would ask me for more but I said, look, that's all I can give you.

[REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: So, I helped him out.

[REDACTED]: Right, the understanding was that he would re pay that to you?
 30 COLACICCO: Yes, yep, always.

[REDACTED]: And is that the same circumstances, that cash at three thousand dollars, is that once the house is sold, that would be repaid to you?
 COLACICCO: Yes, he's got to give me, because I gave him two lots, so he's going to give me – it's about twenty-one thousand, twenty-two thousand. Twenty-one thousand something.

35 [REDACTED]: Something, okay. And you mentioned some cash prior to going on a Tiger's trip?
 COLACICCO: He was going on a Tigers trip and he was, he was, he said to me, Frank I don't even know if I should go, I've paid for it and I've got no money.

40 [REDACTED]: And I said, look, I can lend you some money, how much do you need? And he ask me and I gave him three thousand.

[REDACTED]: When was that?
 COLACICCO: Maybe the end of 2017?
 [REDACTED]: Okay, had you already loaned him the fifteen thousand?
 COLACICCO: Yes, yes I had. I'm pretty sure I had.
 5 [REDACTED]: Did you –
 COLACICCO: Oh no, the fifteen was in, oh I would have to check the dates. The fifteen was, it was two payments.
 [REDACTED]: All right.
 COLACICCO: I think it was in 2018.
 10 [REDACTED]: Okay. All right, well, I can –
 COLACICCO: I can check, look, I can check my statements.
 [REDACTED]: In your mind, what was the first time, what was the first occasion you actually lent him money?
 COLACICCO: The ten thousand.
 15 [REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: Then five thousand.
 [REDACTED]: Yep.
 COLACICCO: And then I gave him the three. I'm pretty sure he was going somewhere with the Tigers, or he just got back and he didn't have any money. And I, he asked me for some money, if I could help him, and I said yes I can help you. How much do you need, and he said, three thousand or four thousand or something. I said, I can give you three thousand, but I think that was after, [REDACTED]
 20 [REDACTED]: Okay, so your best recollection is two electronic transfers.
 25 COLACICCO: Yes.
 [REDACTED]: One for ten.
 COLACICCO: Yes.
 [REDACTED]: One for five.
 COLACICCO: Yes.
 30 [REDACTED]: Then two cash payments both of three thousand.
 COLACICCO: Yes.
 [REDACTED]: Probably the Tigers related money first.
 COLACICCO: One was and then he was, he was short of, he just need some money and he said, can you lend me some money? He asked me, can you give me five thousand. I said, look, I can't give you five, I can give you another three.
 35 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: And that's what I did.
 [REDACTED]: All right.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 40 [REDACTED]: So, its ten transfer, five transfer, three cash for the Tigers trip.
 COLACICCO: Yep.

[REDACTED]: And then three because he was just short of cash.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: Okay, that's your best recollection.
 COLACICCO: Yes, yep.
 5 [REDACTED]: Thank you.
 [REDACTED]: Okay, has any of that money been paid back to you at any stage?
 COLACICCO: Nope, nope.
 [REDACTED]: When Tsirekas on the Tigers trip and he asked you for more cash, did you raise it with him that he still owed you money?
 10 COLACICCO: Yes, yes, no, he said to me, look, I know I owe you but I'll try and pay you back some of the cash if I can, but I'll definitely pay you back when the house is finished. And look, I was okay with it because we're good friends.
 [REDACTED]: Yeah.
 COLACICCO: And I, like, you know, I mean, I said even to my wife, look, I've lent
 15 Angelo some money and I'm going to lend him some more. I mean, you know, they get a bit upset when you get angry with them when they are spending too much money, so, it was in time of need sort of, like, I helped him out 'cause he was going through a pretty rough trot of his life. And, you know, I copped the brunt of it and I said to my friend Frank Mecuri the first time round, you know, she was pretty, um, look she's alcoholic it was pretty tough for them.
 20 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: And the girls are close to my kids, and so on, you know.
 [REDACTED]: Just one more question about that money for now.
 25 COLACICCO: Yes.
 [REDACTED]: Is there or are there any loan documents in relation to any of those loans?
 COLACICCO: No, no. He just, I mean, I've never asked him for it but I'm sure if I did he would've, but.
 [REDACTED]: So, the agreement is based, is a verbal only agreement.
 30 COLACICCO: Yes.
 [REDACTED]: There is no written loan agreement?
 COLACICCO: No, nope. He just said basically said, mate, I'm good for it as soon as I sell the house, and that's dragged on. But, you know, and it wasn't until recently he told me he was coming to an end with the court ruling and then
 35 he, that the house would be put on the market for sale and he also, I spoke to him about –, because he got approached by another agent that the wife put him on to and – about putting the house on the market, and he wanted to know, what are your thoughts and I said, look, just be careful, you know, maybe appoint two agents. If it can't be me, she might not want it, appoint two agents, one for you and one for her, so it's all kept above
 40 board. And that's the last conversation I've had with him, about the house.

- █: No worries. What I would like to ask you now, Frank, if you don't mind, is your knowledge regarding a Joseph Chidiac.
- COLACICCO: Joseph Chidiac, I've met Joseph through Angelo.
- █: Right.
- 5 COLACICCO: We had, we had a couple of, sorry. Joseph, apparently, was in my class at school.
- █: Oh, okay.
- COLACICCO: At De La Salle College. But I don't remember him in the photos because I never – obviously he's got no hair now, he's bald. But I only met him through Angelo, in reference to the Labor Party because he was a member of the Labor Party. And to the campaigns that, when some of these functions were on, he would tell us, look, there's this function on, you guys going to come along, and whatever, and that it, that's all I've had to do with him. We went overseas as a delegation.
- 10
- █: Right.
- COLACICCO: To China.
- █: Yep.
- COLACICCO: And he was there.
- █: Yep.
- 20 COLACICCO: And so were a lot of other locals, businesses, and I got to know him a bit better there. And we've had a few other trips after that in China and he was there.
- █: Okay.
- COLACICCO: But other than, really, just when it came to the, Angelo's campaigns, and to these functions. And he's a mad Tigers supporter, I'm a mad Rooster supporter, and there would be a bit of banter. But it wasn't that we were the friends we'd pick up the phone, let's catch up for a coffee, whatever.
- 25
- █: Okay, let's just step back,
- COLACICCO: Okay.
- 30 █: When did you first meet Mr Chidiac?
- COLACICCO: I met him, I think it was the first China delegation. We went to Shanghai then, I think it was called Patong, no not Patong. I think that could have been '13 or '14. I'm not sure, I'll have to check. That was the first trip we had that I've ever been to China, and it was a group of us, there was a big delegation from City of Canada Bay.
- 35
- █: Was that a sister city type delegation?
- COLACICCO: Yes, yep. There was a lot of formalities.
- █: All right, can you explain what your role was on that particular trip? What
- 40 COLACICCO: As a local business, we were invited to attend, obviously we pay all our own expenses.

[REDACTED]: Who invited you?
 COLACICCO: It was an invitation from, there's a lady called Nancy. I can't remember her surname, but she was, because we went to this city that she came from, and they had, that's where we had the sister city presentations and all that.
 5 And being part of the local businesses I got invited through that group, and also, obviously, the City of Canada Bay Council.

[REDACTED]: What was the group you refer to? What's the name of it?
 COLACICCO: Oh, it's, it's, Nancy had organised it. It was some Chinese business group, but there was a group of them, there was, it could have been fourteen or fifteen of us.
 10

[REDACTED]: You don't know?
 COLACICCO: No, I could look back and, and get you the information. I don't know the actual name of the, the actual group, because we had to pay someone, and they did everything for us.

15 [REDACTED]: What do you mean you had to pay someone, what – ?
 COLACICCO: We had to pay the people that organised it to go for our accommodation.

[REDACTED]: Oh okay.
 COLACICCO: And our flights and everything, they did all that for us. Get our visa for us originally and everything.

20 [REDACTED]: Right. So, what's this group you're referring to, what does it do?
 COLACICCO: It was, it was just like a business group out of, that Nancy had organised. I could let you know the name and all that because at the time, as I said, I paid for it all, and I had to go through a lady. But there was, there was other Asian people, which I meet through the group that went, obviously we all went together.

25 [REDACTED]: Is this an incorporated group, a company of sorts?
 COLACICCO: It was, I think it was an incorporated group. I just don't know the name of it, I couldn't tell you.

[REDACTED]: Is it some sort of business, Chinese?
 30 COLACICCO: It was like a Chinese business group, yeah.

[REDACTED]: Okay, all right. And Nancy Wang, sorry.
 COLACICCO: Yep, Nancy.

[REDACTED]: Developed this group, is that right?
 COLACICCO: I believe so, because she was in charge when we were there. Because she took us to the town where she grew up in or whatever.

35 [REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: We did the sister city (unintelligible)

[REDACTED]: Okay. And did you have meetings with the group prior to going to Shanghai?
 40 COLACICCO: No, it was all done through WeChat at the time. And we just got told, we got emails saying, you know, this is what, you got to fill out these forms,

this is the cost and everything, and I'd never been to China, so it was an experience to go.

██████: Okay.

COLACICCO: So that's why I wanted to go.

5 ██████: So as far as what I understand you're telling me is, this group of people was organised by Nancy.

COLACICCO: Yes.

██████: Some Chinese business group?

COLACICCO: Yes.

10 ██████: And you paid your own way?

COLACICCO: Yes.

██████: Including accommodation.

COLACICCO: Yes.

██████: To Shanghai.

15 COLACICCO: Yes, yes.

██████: All right, and you didn't meet regularly prior to going over, it wasn't like a networking situation or just arrange for this particular trip?

COLACICCO: Not, not, it was arrange for this thing, I got offered to go, and I said let's take the opportunity, and a few of us took the opportunity to go, like Frank Mehuri came with me.

20 ██████: Yep, all right. On that, who did go? Do you remember?

COLACICCO: Well, yes there was Frank Mehuri, there was at the time the General Manager Gary Sawyer.

██████: Yep.

25 COLACICCO: There was Angelo.

██████: Yep.

COLACICCO: There was Andrew Ferguson. There was Nancy, there was, Andrew had his wife.

██████: What's his wife's name?

30 COLACICCO: Oh, she was Brazilian, what's her name? I could get it to you, I can't remember her name.

██████: Okay.

COLACICCO: Because they've since separated.

██████: All right.

35 COLACICCO: There was a lady called Ava that met us there.

██████: Do you know Ava's surname?

COLACICCO: Yep, hold on Ava Ava Ava. Nope I haven't got it, but she owns a Chinese restaurant at Rhodes in the shopping centre.

██████: Oh, I see.

40 COLACICCO: There was another girl, there was another three girls. I just can't, they were Asian, I just can't remember their names at the moment.

[REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: Sorry.
 [REDACTED]: No that's all right, if it comes back to you.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 5 [REDACTED]: Feel free to butt in and let me know.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: Did Ava meet you in Dongtai or Shanghai?
 COLACICCO: Dongtai, that's it. No, we, we went to Shanghai and then we went to
 Dongtai. And, sorry, who did you say met me?
 10 [REDACTED]: You said, I didn't. You said Ava met us there.
 COLACICCO: Yes, she met yes in ah Shanghai. Yeah, because we went to Shanghai first
 and then we got a bus all together to go to Dongtai.
 [REDACTED]: All right.
 COLACICCO: Which Nancy had organised.
 15 [REDACTED]: Is that, you said the restaurant in Rhodes, is that, what's it called? The big
 one, the big one in the shopping centre?
 COLACICCO: Mama's Wok.
 [REDACTED]: Right, okay. Not the Phoenix?
 COLACICCO: No, no.
 20 [REDACTED]: No, okay.
 [REDACTED]: Look, I'm no expert on travel. Did you have to arrange a visa or get some
 sponsorship from China to go over?
 COLACICCO: We had to arrange a visa, but we, I just got a normal three-month visa.
 [REDACTED]: I see.
 25 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: Did, are you aware of any council organisation in China or official
 organisation in China having communications with Canada of City Bay
 and getting sponsors?
 COLACICCO: Yes, we had, I don't know about sponsorship, but it was a sister thing and
 30 we had a lot of, there was a lot of going to their government of whatever it
 was.
 [REDACTED]: Oh okay.
 COLACICCO: There was a lot of official stuff, yeah.
 [REDACTED]: Right.
 35 COLACICCO: There was a good seven days.
 [REDACTED]: And you indicated had be organised, this business group had been
 organised through WeChat. Did that strike you as unusual?
 COLACICCO: No, because I never knew about WeChat. It's only when we got to China
 that I, I got onto the WeChat. But the communication stayed on from that,
 40 after, sorry I didn't mean before.
 [REDACTED]: All right.

- COLACICCO: But before, it was, I just got info – , emails. We all got emails from this particular person that Nancy organised all the travel through, and so on, and was co-ordinated, and we all just filled it in, paid our stuff and they did it all for us.
- 5 [REDACTED]: All right.
- [REDACTED]: So just on that trip then, you also said – so, you listed those names, Frank Mecuri , Gary Sawyer, Angelo, Andrew Ferguson and his wife, Nancy, Ava, plus three other Asian females.
- COLACICCO: Yep.
- 10 [REDACTED]: Plus Joseph Chidiac.
- COLACICCO: Yes. Joseph was there, yep.
- [REDACTED]: Joseph was there. And that, as far as you can recall right now, that was the totality of the group?
- COLACICCO: Yes.
- 15 [REDACTED]: Were the three Asian females, were they domiciled in Australia or did you meet them in –
- COLACICCO: No, no. I met them, I met everyone there. Except for, like, Joseph Chidiac, Frank Mecuri, Gary, Andrew Ferguson. But, I met them all on the trip, because we all went our separate ways to get there. A few of us went together and then we met them all there at the hotel. So, no I met all those girls there.
- [REDACTED]: Who did you travel with on that trip?
- COLACICCO: Ah, Frank Mecuri. Frank Mecuri...Gary, I think Joseph and Angelo. I can check, but I think we all left together.
- 25 [REDACTED]: What did you actually do in China? On that trip.
- COLACICCO: Well, we obviously had the, they had the trip to Dongtai, which was the formality side of it. Then, we came back into – a lot of it formality, we basically got about two or three days of sightseeing, going to restaurants, basically that was it. I was excited because I've never been to China, like, I was amazed when I got there. And we just did a lot of sightseeing and restaurants and going to clubs and so on, but I, the majority of it was with the delegation, was in Dongtai and then coming back.
- 30 [REDACTED]: Sorry, you're talking about some official role functions over there.
- COLACICCO: Yes.
- 35 [REDACTED]: What involvement did you have in those?
- COLACICCO: We just attended the functions and basically we sat back when they did the ceremony for the sister city and all that, and we just attended and they took us on tours to some of their government buildings and their museums and stuff like that, we just attended as a group.
- 40 [REDACTED]: Was there any business opportunities for you or others on that trip, for Australia?

COLACICCO: There was, just networking connection. I actually wanted to see how I could, you know, obviously getting in business with some of these Asians that were coming in and buying, but it never really eventuated to anything, other than I built up relationships with some of the people that were on the trip, that were here in Sydney.

5 [REDACTED]: All right.

[REDACTED]: Just before we go on then, just want to ask you, you said that that was where, that's how Angelo introduced you to Chidiac.

COLACICCO: Yep.

10 [REDACTED]: Around that time.

COLACICCO: Yes.

[REDACTED]: What did you understand Chidiac did for a living, and what did you understand was the nature of the relationship between Chidiac and Angelo?

15 COLACICCO: Look, I didn't know what he did. I was then made aware that we went to school together and I couldn't remember him from school from De La Salle. But, you know, I knew the name, because there were a lot of Chidiacs and similar, you know, cousins and that. But I was told he was in the security business before. He sold his security business and he owned a fair bit of property and he lived off his income from the property. And he work, he was – I only got to know more of him when some of the – the campaign for Angelo in Labor, because he was in the Labor Party. He was, you know, you've got to fill out these forms, you've got to attend this function, that was it, that's all I knew of him. And then, when we went on the trip, we got know him, I got to know him a bit more, but nothing other than, you know, we come back and if we all caught up or something, had a dinner, people that were on the trip, for a while we did that after. We, you know, just seen him like that. But nothing really much to do with him other than that.

20

25

30 [REDACTED]: So, when Angelo introduced you to him.

COLACICCO: Yep.

[REDACTED]: Do you remember what Angelo said? Hi, this is Joseph, he's a friend of mine.

COLACICCO: This is Joseph Chidiac, he's a friend of mine and he's helping me with the campaign, and that's basically it, really.

35 [REDACTED]: So, this was sometime prior to the trip to Dongtai?

COLACICCO: No, oh it could've been [REDACTED], but I really got to know him there on the trip. I didn't have much to do with him.

[REDACTED]: Right, I'm just trying to pinpoint when you very first met him, or should I say more accurately, you were introduced to him by Angelo.

40

COLACICCO: I was, I'm not – I'm just trying to think if there was a campaign before that where I met him.

█: All right.

COLACICCO: I'd be lying. I can't remember exactly when.

5 █: So, you came to understand that he sold his security business.

COLACICCO: That's what I was told.

█: And he had some property developments.

COLACICCO: That he had some, no, no, that he had some investments, that he lived off investments.

10 █: What else had you come to be aware of in relation to Mr Chidiac and how he earned a living?

COLACICCO: That was it really, I didn't really question him. Because, we didn't have a relationship like that. If anything I'm, you know, the few times that we did meet about rugby league and that we'd have clashes because you know just banter about I'm a Rooster supporter, he's a Tiger supporter and we carry on.

15 █: Do you have knowledge of what Chidiac's investments are?

COLACICCO: Nah. No.

█: Do you know if he owns property in Rhodes?

20 COLACICCO: I'm not aware of that.

█: What's, apart –

COLACICCO: I think he's got a house in, I don't know if it's Rhodes, but it's a waterfront house. Because we were selling the house next door and he contacted me a couple of times over that because he wanted to buy it. But he had offered ridiculous money, and my business partner was handling it and I said to him, look, you know, stop wasting everyone's time, but that's it. But I don't know, I don't know if that's called Rhodes, yeah, I don't know if that's called Rhodes but that's all I knew.

25 █: Okay.

30 █: Can I just take you back to the Dongtai trip.

COLACICCO: Yep.

█: Just a couple of questions. So, how many nights were you in Shanghai?

COLACICCO: Geez █, I can look at that there was an itinerary. I think we were there two nights, then we left for seven and then I think we came back for two nights.

35 █: And which hotel did you stay at in Shanghai?

COLACICCO: That, the first time we went, we stayed, oh I don't know the name because Nancy had organised it. That's, that's I don't know that one, but I can find out the name. But when we went back the other time we stayed at the

40 █: I think I'll just, I'll just go back to the Chidiac thing.

COLACICCO: Sure.

█: Just to try and wrap that up.

COLACICCO: Sure.

█: So, you are aware that Joseph was a member of the Labor Party? Is that correct?

5 COLACICCO: Yes, that's what I was told, yep.

█: He sold his security business and currently lives off his investments?

COLACICCO: Yep.

█: And that's the totality of your knowledge regarding his business or income?

10 COLACICCO: Yes.

█: And you have a loose social interaction with him.

COLACICCO: Yep.

█: From time to time.

15 COLACICCO: Yep. We, we after those trips we a few of us got even closer, I mean I was always close with Frank, Angelo and developed a relationship with Gary and his son, Gary Sawyer.

█: Frank Mecuri you're talking about?

COLACICCO: Frank Mecuri.

20 █: Right.

COLACICCO: So, we had a few nights where they organised some dinners at local restaurants and that, we just talked about you know the trip, the crap and just banter about footy and so on. That was it, he didn't attend all of them. You know we, we're not, you could butt heads with him at times.

25 █: Do you know what his role in the Labor Party was? Did he assist Tsirekas in his campaigns?

COLACICCO: I know that he was assisting him in the campaigns, that's all I know. I don't, I really, you know we're friends I got nothing against him but we're not – it's not somebody I'd pick up the phone. Look, I've exchanged, I was sick for a while and he sent me some messages, hope you're well, I hope you're good, this and that, and I just paid the respect and that was it.

30 █: Sure, just bear with me (unintelligible). All right. We are just going to jump forward to some of the travel that you've talked about.

COLACICCO: Yep.

35 █: Just wanted to go back and cover off something █ mentioned about the 2009 – I think you travelled in 2015 to Dongtai.

COLACICCO: Yep.

█: For the sister city exchange. As far as you understand, all the travel arrangements were made by Nancy, is that correct?

40 COLACICCO: That's right.

[REDACTED]: And in terms of payment for that trip, is it my understanding you paid for your own way is that correct?
 COLACICCO: Yes.
 [REDACTED]: Does that include flights, accommodation and social aspects that occurred on that trip?
 5 COLACICCO: Yes, and when we got back.
 [REDACTED]: Yep.
 COLACICCO: We had to pay Nancy for the accommodation.
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 10 COLACICCO: And we did that, because she had organised the hotel and everything.
 [REDACTED]: Did she pay it up front, did she?
 COLACICCO: I'm not sure if she paid it up front, but I think they sent us individual invoices and we just paid our own.
 [REDACTED]: All right.
 15 [REDACTED]: During that trip, did you assist Mr Tsirekas in any way financially?
 COLACICCO: No, no.
 [REDACTED]: Did you provide him any cash for currency, so he could acquire his own currency?
 COLACICCO: No, not that I'm, no.
 20 [REDACTED]: Did you pay for any meals with him or any other hospitality?
 COLACICCO: No, no, because a lot of it was, a lot of the formal stuff was all included. The only think is, like if we, the times that we were together at lunch or dinner, if we went and maybe I shouted or then Gary shouted or Frank shouted or we all just chipped in together that was it, yep.
 25 [REDACTED]: All right.
 [REDACTED]: It's probably best then if you just tell us about the rest of your – you mentioned there was other trips.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: You said there were trips plural. Do you want to go through and tell us what trips you went on with Angelo?
 30 COLACICCO: Yep, what I can recall.
 [REDACTED]: (Unintelligible) you've said that Dongtai was the first one.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: So, do you want to take us from there, sort of in time-wise?
 35 COLACICCO: Look, we had a great time.
 [REDACTED]: No, not the Dongtai trip. Do you want to take us to the next time you travelled?
 COLACICCO: From there then we went back to, we went back to Shanghai. Because we had a really good time in Shanghai and I enjoyed it. We, I got suits made, I got shirts made, it became a good thing, we then went back again with
 40 Frank and Gary.

[REDACTED]: All right, so each time you tell us about a trip, we just need to drill down into your memory as much as you can.

COLACICCO: Yep, yep.

[REDACTED]: So, first thing is, how long after Dongtai did you next go to Shanghai? I'm saying Dongtai, we all understand what I mean that you went to Shanghai.

5 COLACICCO: [REDACTED], I think we went, and look, I can get you these dates if you like, I can find it.

[REDACTED]: Yeah, yeah, just give us your best recollection.

COLACICCO: I think we went, because we liked it so much, we went back again, like,

10 I'm not sure. I'm just trying to remember in Dongtai whether it was August or November or something and then we went back again, the following, not long after, we went back again because we had a good time and we went back again as a social thing.

[REDACTED]: Okay, now when you say we, again we just need more detail. Who?

15 COLACICCO: It was myself, Angelo, he had invited Joseph, there was, I think I had invited another friend of mine, Albert. There was, I'm not sure if Frank Mecuri came that time. But I could let you know, I could check and find out but we, we went again. Yep.

[REDACTED]: We can probably help you with some dates.

20 COLACICCO: Yeah, if you can.

[REDACTED]: It may sort of prompt your recollection.

COLACICCO: Yeah, yeah.

[REDACTED]: So, we have some travel records and I don't propose to show these to you.

COLACICCO: Right.

25 [REDACTED]: But we understand that you travelled in November 2015 to Shanghai, that would be the sister city.

COLACICCO: That would be the first one that we went yep. And then we –

[REDACTED]: Then again.

COLACICCO: In February.

30 [REDACTED]: In February, there was another trip. Do you recall going in February '16?

COLACICCO: It could be, yep. I can check on that, but I'm pretty sure that we went back in February.

[REDACTED]: Right, so what I would like to clarify with you is, if you have a recollection, whether that was to Shanghai or some other location?

35 COLACICCO: Only once. Angelo travelled with me to Dubai. But I don't know, I'll have to get back to you on that trip. But I know, we went I think we went back to Shanghai, but I could look back.

[REDACTED]: No, that's okay.

COLACICCO: I'm happy to look back.

40 [REDACTED]: Just to speed it up I'll give you some information.

[REDACTED]: Tell us about the Dubai trip then? What's your recollection of that?

COLACICCO: I went to Dubai , with, um, I was going there because of the Sydney Roosters. I've got a bit of involvement there. And, I said mate you should come along with me on this trip to Dubai, we are going to go. And he said, yeah I'll come along, so he came with me. And we were there four or five

5 [REDACTED]: So, in relation to that travel event, do you know how that was paid for?

COLACICCO: I paid my own and I think he paid his own, yeah I'm pretty sure.

[REDACTED]: What about the accommodation over there, who paid for that?

COLACICCO: The same, I think we just paid our own.

10 [REDACTED]: You think you paid your own.

COLACICCO: Yeah.

[REDACTED]: Okay. What about living expenses whilst overseas for that travel event. Who paid for what? Do you know?

COLACICCO: Some, some nights I paid at the restaurant. I think one particular night he

15 [REDACTED]: Did you provide any financial assistant to Tsirekas to attend that travel or go on that travel event?

COLACICCO: No.

[REDACTED]: Did you give him any cash whilst you were either –

20 COLACICCO: No, no.

[REDACTED]: Prior to or whilst you were over there?

COLACICCO: No.

[REDACTED]: To assist him in anyway?

COLACICCO: No.

25 [REDACTED]: When you travelled on this particular trip then, when you say you paid for dinner. Did you pay – how would you pay for that?

COLACICCO: Well, if I changed the money to the currency, I'd pay for currency, I'd pay on my credit card.

[REDACTED]: And did you recall how Angelo paid when he was, say – you said you

30 think he paid for dinner one night.

COLACICCO: I think he put it on his card.

[REDACTED]: Okay. Do you know who else attended that trip?

COLACICCO: Ah, I met a friend of mine there. I'm just trying to think, did he meet us there? Yes, I met friend of mine there, he met us there.

35 [REDACTED]: And that name is?

COLACICCO: Nick Politis.

[REDACTED]: Nick Politis.

COLACICCO: Yep.

[REDACTED]: I was going to ask you what the Rooster connection was.

40 COLACICCO: (Laughs) yeah.

[REDACTED]: So, you went there to meet Nick?

COLACICCO: Yeah, we met up, he was coming from Greece, and we met up there because he went to see his mum, and so we met up there. That's when I, first time being Greek, and he's Greek, I introduced him to Angelo, and so that was it and, you know, he also, like, because I was meeting him there, he paid for a fair bit of the food and that as well, at the restaurants.

5 [REDACTED]: Did you stay in a motel?

COLACICCO: Yes, we did, yep.

[REDACTED]: Do you remember what that was?

COLACICCO: Yep, the Grosvenor house in the Marina.

10 [REDACTED]: How did you fly, business or economy?

COLACICCO: I think we flew premium or we bought a ticket and then we upgraded it to premium.

[REDACTED]: Did you convert any cash just prior to leaving?

COLACICCO: Yes, I would've, probably at Ashfield or Strathfield.

15 [REDACTED]: Did you provide any money to Tsirekas to covert to the currency in Dubai that was to be used?

COLACICCO: That I provide?

[REDACTED]: Yeah. Did you provide any cash?

COLACICCO: No, not that I'm aware of, no. I can't recall, no.

20 [REDACTED]: I mean, if you did you would recall it?

COLACICCO: Yes, I would. But I'm sure I told him I got a good rate at Strathfield, go there if you want.

[REDACTED]: Okay. Alright, so move on to the next travel event from our records. It was November '17, back to Shanghai. Do you recall that event?

25 COLACICCO: I've got to just check the dates. It could have been February that we went again.

[REDACTED]: Right.

COLACICCO: I think –

[REDACTED]: When you say February, what year? We're talking about November '17?

30 COLACICCO: '16?

[REDACTED]: Right.

[REDACTED]: Well, it seems like February 2016 you went to Dubai.

COLACICCO: Oh it was Dubai, was it? Was that Dubai?

[REDACTED]: That's what it looks like on the information that we have.

35 COLACICCO: Okay, yep, okay. Then I would've went then maybe the following November we would've went to Shanghai.

[REDACTED]: All right.

COLACICCO: But I can get you those notes.

[REDACTED]: That's all right.

40 [REDACTED]: That's okay. Let's assume it is November '17.

COLACICCO: Yeah.

[REDACTED]: Is the next Shanghai trip.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: So just repeat who went on that one sorry (unintelligible).
 COLACICCO: Oh, I've got to have a look at that [REDACTED], but I'm pretty sure that was when I
 5 took my mate Albert Sassoon. I'm just trying to think if a cousin of mine
 came with me, Tony Pace. Angelo was there, there was a friend of
 Angelo's that we'd met, I think Jared, Gerard, McSpadden, Gerard.
 Chidiac.
 [REDACTED]: Anyone else?
 COLACICCO: Not that I can recall at the moment.
 [REDACTED]: Frank was on that trip?
 COLACICCO: Frank did come one other time but I don't know if it was that trip or if it
 was after that, when we came again with Gary. But I'm not sure, I'll have
 to have a look.
 15 [REDACTED]: What was that purpose of that travel event?
 COLACICCO: We just had a good time and we wanted to go back and bought some suits
 and just spent four, five days.
 [REDACTED]: A social event?
 COLACICCO: Social.
 20 [REDACTED]: Okay. Once again did you provide any funds to Tsirekas whilst overseas or
 prior to leaving?
 COLACICCO: Not that I'm aware of.
 [REDACTED]: If you had –
 COLACICCO: I don't know, I don't know whether – because I gave him two lots of three
 25 thousand.
 [REDACTED]: Yep.
 COLACICCO: One was for the Tigers. I don't, I can't recall if it was for one of those
 trips. I said to him, look I'll give you some money if you need it, but I'm
 not sure, I've just got to check on that.
 30 [REDACTED]: Okay. You said a fellow by the name of McSpadden went?
 COLACICCO: Jerry? Jared? Gerard?
 [REDACTED]: What's his role? Can you tell me a bit more about him?
 COLACICCO: Well, I met Gerard through Angelo, nice guy. He was at the time working
 for a construction company or something or company that, um. They done
 35 a development in Ashfield or something but I think Angelo bought an
 apartment in there.
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: 'Cause, when it was finished he ask me to go see, I told him if he can get
 out of the contract get out of it because I didn't like it at all, just as a
 40 personal advice and I then I think he then got out. That's when I met him
 and he was a lovely guy we just had a good time.

[REDACTED]: Okay. What did you do whilst you were over in Shanghai?
 COLACICCO: Just restaurants, sightseeing.
 [REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: Getting suits made, getting shirts made. Going to different restaurants,
 5 clubs.
 [REDACTED]: Did you purchase any items for Tsirekas on that trip?
 COLACICCO: Did I purchase any?
 [REDACTED]: Yes.
 COLACICCO: No. For him? No.
 10 [REDACTED]: No suits?
 COLACICCO: No, no.
 [REDACTED]: Items of any worth? What about the –
 COLACICCO: We'd go to those markets where, you know, you buy the fake pens, or you
 know, all that, but no.
 15 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Okay. What about other expenses whilst over there such as meals or
 drinks?
 COLACICCO: Only like I said before we'd go to a restaurant and we'd split the bill, or
 I'd pay for it or the other bloke will pay for it, it just depends. But we'd
 always – majority of the time we'd all just the split the bill and chip in.
 20 [REDACTED]: Okay, and was that done via a cash chip in or did someone put it on a
 credit card and that would all get repaid, did you know how that worked?
 COLACICCO: Cash, sometimes if someone said, oh can I take the cash, it saves me going
 to the, get some, transfer of money, you know, like, thing, I'll be it on my
 card.
 25 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Now you mentioned another fellow, Tony Pace, a cousin of yours?
 COLACICCO: Yes.
 [REDACTED]: what does he do for a living?
 COLACICCO: Tony's an accountant.
 [REDACTED]: An accountant, okay. What's the name of his business?
 30 COLACICCO: PRS Partners, I think.
 [REDACTED]: And are they located at where?
 COLACICCO: Miranda.
 [REDACTED]: And Albert Sassoon, who's he?
 COLACICCO: He was a friend of mine in real estate in Double Bay, he since no longer
 35 has that business. He works for a real estate agency in Double Bay now.
 [REDACTED]: Okay, what's –
 COLACICCO: He's going through a bad divorce.
 [REDACTED]: I see. So he works in real estate?
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 40 [REDACTED]: okay. And you mentioned something about Gerard McSpadden and a unit.
 COLACICCO: He was working for a company in Ashfield.

[REDACTED]: Yep.
 COLACICCO: That had sold the units off the plan.
 [REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: Which I only found out about after because Angelo had said to me, I
 5 bought this unit in Ashfield.
 [REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: That I'm hoping when it settles to have it with my girls.
 [REDACTED]: Yeah.
 COLACICCO: And I went to do a final inspection with him and I said, mate, this is pretty
 10 terrible, small –
 [REDACTED]: The build of the unit was bad?
 COLACICCO: Yeah, the actual unit. The actual unit it's, the size and that, I said, why did
 you buy this, and he said, I thought on the plan it was a lot better, then at
 the end I believe he got out of it because I said to him to get out of it.
 15 [REDACTED]: Oh okay.
 COLACICCO: But I think he lost some money.
 [REDACTED]: What's your knowledge about Angelo's involvement with this unit?
 COLACICCO: That he just purchased a unit.
 [REDACTED]: He just purchased it?
 20 COLACICCO: Yeah.
 [REDACTED]: Yeah okay. And you provided some assistance to him in terms of
 reviewing the build structure.
 COLACICCO: Only when it was finished.
 [REDACTED]: Yeah, and you gave him some advice that it wasn't very good and Angelo
 25 –
 COLACICCO: Well, I just thought it was very small and I said, look, I think the way the
 market was at the time, I think you should get of it if you can get out of it.
 [REDACTED]: Oh okay. Did you have any other involvement with Tsirekas over this
 unit?
 30 COLACICCO: No. I only, I only –
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: I only, there was a period coming where, it was coming, I think he was
 buying it. He was going through this crazy divorce and I just said to him,
 why don't you speak to your ex-wife and see if she can help you out with
 35 funds and whatever, and that was the only time that we discussed it. Then I
 actually had a phone call from his ex-wife because I was trying to get him
 to get the kids involved.
 [REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: Because he needed some money to settle and he then couldn't settle it.
 40 And obviously because she didn't want to know, and that's when I said to
 him, mate, if you can get out of it get out of it.

[REDACTED]: So, you told Angelo that he could possibly approach his ex-wife or his –
 COLACICCO: Well, to have a chat to her, yeah, about it.
 [REDACTED]: About getting some funds for this unit.
 COLACICCO: Yeah.
 5 [REDACTED]: Oh okay. Seems like, from all accounts it was a –
 COLACICCO: Not getting funds but in the sense of, it was coming close to settlement.
 [REDACTED]: Oh right.
 COLACICCO: And they hadn't settled their house situation and he wanted to see, if he
 10 could, 'cause he didn't have any, and then I said to him, then he said to
 me, look I think I can get out of it. And I said, well, if you can get out of it
 get out of it.
 [REDACTED]: Oh okay. So apart from providing some advice you had no other
 involvement in this particular unit with Tsirekas?
 COLACICCO: No.
 15 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 [REDACTED]: So, just going back to November 2017 in Shanghai.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: Did you meet anyone there because obviously you'd come to make some
 connection in – ?
 20 COLACICCO: We met, from the first time they were married, we met Nancy's husband,
 Kevin. We had dinner with him one night and he, we went to, like at first
 he showed us places to go to.
 [REDACTED]: Kevin is obviously an anglicised name I'm assuming.
 COLACICCO: I don't know his –
 25 [REDACTED]: You know his surname?
 COLACICCO: No, I don't know his – I could get it, I could get it, I dunno.
 [REDACTED]: And again, where did you stay in Shanghai on that trip?
 COLACICCO: We stayed at the Langham.
 [REDACTED]: So that, did that become sort of your hotel of choice?
 30 COLACICCO: Yes, yes, yep.
 [REDACTED]: And is there more than one Langham in Shanghai or is there just the one?
 COLACICCO: The Langham that was near the French quarter. I think it's the only one
 there.
 [REDACTED]: Near the French quarter?
 35 COLACICCO: Yep, opposite the French quarter.
 [REDACTED]: Did you meet anybody else?
 COLACICCO: No.
 [REDACTED]: All right, I'll take you to the next travel event, please, Frank.
 [REDACTED]: Do you remember the next one you went on with Angelo?

COLACICCO: I can't remember the dates but like I said, I could get the dates, not a problem. But we went, we went, we, we, went again to Shanghai, but I don't know if that was, again, on a February or a November trip.

5 [REDACTED]: Let's explore that particular travel event. We have it as March 2018, do you recall that?

COLACICCO: It could be. It could be March, yeah.

[REDACTED]: What was the purpose of travel on this particular occasion do you recall?

COLACICCO: Just again, it was four five days away, just boys have some fun. Got some more jackets made, this is one of them. Shirts.

10 [REDACTED]: All right. Who attended on that occasion?

COLACICCO: I'd be giving you the wrong information unless I went back to it, because there was, like, Frank and Gary came back on another trip, and I'm not sure if it was that particular one there. I just don't know my –

[REDACTED]: All right.

15 [REDACTED]: It was definitely Angelo?

COLACICCO: Yeah, yeah, Angelo, Angelo

[REDACTED]: And Mr Chidiac as well, on that one?

COLACICCO: Yes, I think he came as well yep.

[REDACTED]: So, let's assume that's the core.

20 COLACICCO: Yep.

[REDACTED]: We'll call that the core. And then there would have been combination of other friends?

COLACICCO: Yes.

[REDACTED]: From your broader friendship group?

25 COLACICCO: Yes, yes,

[REDACTED]: Could have been Frank?

COLACICCO: Yes.

[REDACTED]: Could it have been tony Pace again?

COLACICCO: It could have been Tony Pace again. Yep.

30 [REDACTED]: Could it have been Albert Sassoon?

COLACICCO: No, because I think Albert came once only, I'm pretty sure. I can check on that, but.

[REDACTED]: Could it have been Gerard McSpadden, I think the name was?

COLACICCO: Yeah, I think Gerard only came once as well. I don't think I've been there

35 twice with him. No, I don't think I have been twice with him.

[REDACTED]: Where did you stay on that occasion do you recall?

COLACICCO: The Langham. I think we've always stayed at the Langham. I'm pretty sure we've always stayed at the Langham.

[REDACTED]: Did you provide any assistance to Tsirekas to travel on that occasion?

40 Financial assistance?

COLACICCO: Not that I'm aware of, no.

- █: Did you provide any financial assistance over there for him such as purchasing items, dinners, drinks anything like that?
- COLACICCO: No, the same with the dinners. The dinners was always just basically, we're a group of mates, we either chip in or, yeah. All right
- 5 █: All right. Okay. And you didn't provide any cash to Tsirekas on that occasion, to you – ?
- COLACICCO: Not that I'm aware of.
- █: Okay. Did you meet anyone else over there whilst you were in Shanghai or did you just stay in your own group?
- 10 COLACICCO: No, we stayed in our own group. I met, we met Kevin again. We met Kevin again. We always try to catch up with Kevin every time we went, because he would take us to, if there was a new club or something, he'd tell us where the places were.
- █: What was the purpose of meeting Kevin?
- 15 COLACICCO: Just we met him, from – we got to meet him through Dongtai. We kept in contact, then him and Nancy had a pretty ugly divorce. But we still kept in contact with him over there.
- █: So, does he reside in Shanghai or does he reside in Australia?
- COLACICCO: No, he's in Shanghai.
- 20 █: Right.
- COLACICCO: He's got, he owns property in Seaforth but he lives in Shanghai.
- █: And he's married to Nancy?
- COLACICCO: He was married to Nancy, yes, I don't know if they've finally divorced and that.
- 25 █: Right.
- █: Sorry, I just have to say, did they split up – sorry, this all started in November 2015, and then during that time Nancy and Kevin came to split up, while you would –
- COLACICCO: Yes.
- 30 █: - kept going over there.
- COLACICCO: Yep.
- █: And did Nancy live in Shanghai or was she living here?
- COLACICCO: When we went the first time she was in Shanghai because they had a property and they lived there, and then she was too and from Shanghai.
- 35 After that, Dongtai, we saw each other at mutual functions, mutual Labor Party functions, some Liberal Party functions and, we know, we went to – I started doing some with Frank Mecuri and also with Tony Pace. We started doing some Mandarin lesson with some of the girls that were on the first trip, they were teachers.
- 40 █: Is that Ava you're referring to?

COLACICCO: Nah not Ava, we'd go after the course, we'd go have dinner at Ava's restaurant.

█: Ah, I see.

COLACICCO: But it would only be on a Monday night, it would be me. Frank Mehuri, Tony, and Ava would be there if she was at work, and these other two girls, one of them was teaching us in the class that we'd go to. And at those classes, when we first started, Andrew Ferguson and his wife were there as well, in those mandarin classes. But they didn't join us for dinner and that after, we'd just do it on a Monday night thing and that went on for a little while and that was it. But Kevin, we'd only make sure we'd catch up with Kevin. We'd have a lunch or something for him at our local hangout, when he came in from Shanghai, just to say thank you for his hospitality in China because, you know, a couple of times he took us out to a restaurant and he paid the bill for us, he invited us out to lunch, that was it.

█: And I assume, and feel free to correct me, by 2018 – no I'll ask this question. Was Nancy and Kevin still married by 2018?

COLACICCO: I'm not sure.

█: You're not sure, and you mentioned –

COLACICCO: I don't think they were – two years ago, I think they were going, the divorce had been dragging on, I don't know, I haven't spoken to her for a long time.

█: All right okay. And you mentioned that Kevin took you out to a nightclub or a club.

COLACICCO: Yeah, he would take us out to the club.

█: where did you go?

COLACICCO: In Shanghai, it was one of the clubs that was going, but we'd chip in ourselves and pay for, you know, if we'd stayed at the club, we'd chip in ourselves. One particular night we were his guests and, you know, we didn't like that and we said to him, look, you know, this is, we want to pay for our own thing, so he'd book it for us and we'd just pay our own consumption or whatever.

█: What do you mean you didn't like it, what was that about?

COLACICCO: Well, I didn't like, one, he would book the place for us and then, you know, if he says, oh, it's okay, you're my guest tonight, you know, wasn't happy with that, so we just chipped in ourselves, whatever it was, the bill.

█: Okay, and how did you pay the bill?

COLACICCO: Again, we all chipped in the currency and paid for it or someone put it on their credit card.

█: Did Tsirekas pay his own way on those occasions?

COLACICCO: Yes, he did, as far as I'm aware he put in.

[REDACTED]: Well, can you explain what your awareness is?
 COLACICCO: My awareness is that if we, the bill came and it was X amount of dollars per head he'd put in his share and we'd all put in our share.

[REDACTED]: Did you see him do those sorts of things?
 5 COLACICCO: Yes I did, yep.

[REDACTED]: Was it cash on those occasions?
 COLACICCO: Yes, yes.

[REDACTED]: Who else did you meet in that March 2018 over in Shanghai? Did you meet anyone else?
 10 COLACICCO: No, no one. Just Kevin. Met a couple of people, like at the clubs, but no one – I don't even know their names, I don't even know who they are.

[REDACTED]: Are you referring to just casual people you'd bump into at the club and talk to or is it more of an arrangement?
 COLACICCO: No, no, no, just casual. I think Kevin introduced us to a couple of blokes
 15 one night and that was it.

[REDACTED]: Do you know who they were?
 COLACICCO: No, I wouldn't even know their names.

[REDACTED]: Did you met anyone else over there that were originally from Australia or were they Chinese citizens?
 20 COLACICCO: No, in the last trip we went to, there was – and I don't know if that's the March one – there was Pierre Jacob. And Pierre Jacob and who else? Pierre Jacob... sorry I'm just (unintelligible).

[REDACTED]: No that's alright. Well, on that, who is Pierre Jacob?
 COLACICCO: Pierre Jacob is a local business guy in Drummoyne that I got to meet.

25 [REDACTED]: What business does he do?
 COLACICCO: They're developers.

[REDACTED]: They're developers?
 COLACICCO: Yep.

[REDACTED]: Do you know the name of company that they are involved?
 30 COLACICCO: Prolet. 'Cause many years ago I sold some stuff for them, that's how I got to meet him and his brother.

[REDACTED]: Oh, I see, what did you sell for them?
 COLACICCO: I was involved in one of their first developments on Victoria Road of Drummoyne called Kaslik, and then they built one at number 1 St
 35 George's Crescent, Drummoyne.

[REDACTED]: What was the address for Kaslik?
 COLACICCO: Oh. It's on the corner of Victoria Road and, ah what's the street called, Church Street, corner of Victoria Road and Church Street. I think it's 2 Church Street, could be.

40 [REDACTED]: Do you have any ongoing arrangements with –
 COLACICCO: No.

[REDACTED]: - Mr Jacob or Prolet?
 COLACICCO: No. no.
 [REDACTED]: So, you said that was the last trip?
 COLACICCO: I think that was the last trip, in March of 2018.
 5 [REDACTED]: We think that might've been January '19, is that possible?
 COLACICCO: Oh possibly yep, yep. So that one there must've been the one that Pierre Jacob was on, January '19.
 [REDACTED]: Is there anything else about March '18 that you can recall?
 COLACICCO: No.
 10 [REDACTED]: So just to recap, you can't recall exactly who was on that trip but it was definitely yourself, Angelo and Joseph.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: Plus others.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 15 [REDACTED]: Again you met Kevin, you have no recollection of providing any funds to Angelo.
 COLACICCO: Actually the trip, January '19.
 [REDACTED]: That's still March '18.
 COLACICCO: Go ahead sorry.
 20 [REDACTED]: And the next one after that is January '19 again to Shanghai. Would that be right?
 COLACICCO: Yes, that could be right yes.
 [REDACTED]: And to your best recollection is that the last time you went there? Or been again since?
 25 COLACICCO: Yes, no, no, I'm pretty sure that was the last time I went.
 [REDACTED]: All right.
 COLACICCO: I'll have to check on the dates but I'm pretty sure that's the last time I went.
 [REDACTED]: (Unintelligible)
 30 COLACICCO: And that's when I think Pierre Jacob was on there.
 [REDACTED]: Oh, okay.
 COLACICCO: And Tony came, and Frank Mehuri came.
 [REDACTED]: Are you referring to the January '19 trip now?
 COLACICCO: I think so yes, that was the last one, yep.
 35 [REDACTED]: Did you have any questions on March '18?
 [REDACTED]: No I just – I do just want to clarify that. I want to recap a little bit on that. So, March '18 you attended with a number of people including Pierre Jacob?
 [REDACTED]: No.
 40 [REDACTED]: Oh, sorry, Tsirekas, Chidiac and some group of friends.
 COLACICCO: Yep.

[REDACTED]: You went, you met Kevin Xue over there?
 COLACICCO: Well, that's his surname, yep, if that's his surname, yep.
 [REDACTED]: Right. You stayed at the Langham?
 COLACICCO: Yes.
 5 [REDACTED]: You attended a social function at a club and from your recollection you paid the bill, the group of you paid the bill?
 COLACICCO: No, the group of us paid.
 [REDACTED]: Paid the bill? Right, okay.
 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] mentioned the surname, Kevin – is that Xhu, X-H.
 10 [REDACTED]: X-U-E.
 COLACICCO: That's it, that's it. Kevin X-U-E.
 [REDACTED]: That's it? And did Nancy have the same surname then? I know it sounds like a silly question but I don't assume anything.
 COLACICCO: I don't know [REDACTED].
 15 [REDACTED]: All right.
 [REDACTED]: All right. So moving forward to 2019 –
 COLACICCO: No, I think Nancy was Wang, you said it before, I think it could've been Wang.
 [REDACTED]: All right. So, moving forward to the January '19 trip, do you recall where
 20 you stayed on that occasion?
 COLACICCO: The Langham again.
 [REDACTED]: The Langham again. Social – what was the purpose on that occasion?
 COLACICCO: Just, again, just a social.
 [REDACTED]: And, let's try to the best of your recollection, who attended on that
 25 occasion?
 COLACICCO: Okay, so it was, I think it was myself, Joseph, Angelo, Tony, Frank Mecuri I think, Pierre Jacob, I'm not sure if Albert came, no I don't think he did.
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 30 COLACICCO: I'm not sure, I got to check. There was someone else with them, Pierre...
 [REDACTED]: So, with Pierre Jacob?
 COLACICCO: Yeah, there was someone else, I'm just trying to think.
 [REDACTED]: Did you all go as one group on that January '19?
 COLACICCO: I'm not sure I'll have to check. I know that myself, Tony and Frank and all
 35 that went as one group because we bought a ticket and then we upgrade to business and we waited to the last minute to get, you know, the text saying, yes you've been upgraded and X amount of points. I just can't recall, there was – unfortunately I can't recall who else was on there (unintelligible).
 40 [REDACTED]: So, was Angelo the same flight as you?
 COLACICCO: Yes, I'm pretty sure he was.

[REDACTED]: Did he get upgraded as well?
 COLACICCO: He could've, I know someone missed out, but he could've yep.
 [REDACTED]: Did McSpadden attend that trip?
 COLACICCO: No, I don't think he did.
 5 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: To my knowledge, I don't think he did. But I could be wrong, I'll have to have a look.
 [REDACTED]: So, how does Pierre Jacob become involved in this particular trip then?
 COLACICCO: It was Angelo that told me Pierre was coming.
 10 [REDACTED]: Okay so it was through Angelo.
 COLACICCO: Yep through Angelo, he said Pierre is coming as well. No problem.
 [REDACTED]: Did you meet anyone over there outside of the group, like did you bump into Kevin again or other persons?
 COLACICCO: I think we, oh hold on. Kevin we might not have because I don't think he –
 15 or did we. We may have for a quick lunch because I think he was coming back to Sydney – or was he in Sydney? Maybe we didn't, I'm not sure. I can't recall if we did.
 [REDACTED]: We'll put a question mark next to it.
 COLACICCO: Yeah, yeah I can't recall, I'm sorry.
 20 [REDACTED]: No that's okay. Did you meet other people whilst in Shanghai? No?
 COLACICCO: No. Look we did, you know, I don't like to sit around hotel's and that, so we were pretty active in getting around in the day, going to look at, sightseeing, I like to take those red bus and things. We organised one particular day, we organised, we all chipped in a lady to take us to the old
 25 city, which we all went, everyone that was there, and then some nights they'd do their thing and we'd do our thing, like me, Frank and Tony. We'd do our own thing to go out to a different restaurant or club or whatever.
 [REDACTED]: Now on these occasions when you travelled overseas with Angelo.
 30 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: Did Angelo use to hang out with the group or did he use to go do his thing?
 COLACICCO: No, the majority of the time he hung out with the group, but sometimes they'd do their own thing and go out in the day, go somewhere else, and we'd go do our own thing.
 35 [REDACTED]: Did he ever explain to you what he was doing –
 COLACICCO: No.
 [REDACTED]: - outside of his group?
 COLACICCO: No, he'd say, look we are going to go and see this building or these things
 40 today, we're going to do a bit of a tour. He's not one that likes to shop,
 [REDACTED]: Okay.

COLACICCO: So, I used to like going to the markets getting suits made, getting shirts done, buying stuff for my kids and wife, so some of the other boys used to do that as well. And sometimes if we did that we'd say, okay, let's meet up for lunch or let's meet at a place where we can go a get a massage But a lot of the time, sometimes they wouldn't do it, they'd just send a text saying, no we're not, you guys have lunch, we're going to go on somewhere else, fine.

5

█: Sounds like within the group there was bit a split.

COLACICCO: Yeah.

10 █: So, you have yourself and Frank.

COLACICCO: And Tony.

█: And Tony.

COLACICCO: Yep.

█: And then on the other side you'd have Angelo and Joseph Chidiac.

15 COLACICCO: Yep.

█: And then whoever else, for example in January '19, Pierre Jacob.

COLACICCO: And look, we'd all meet for breakfast in the hotel and we'd all say, what are you going to do today? I'm going to do this oh what are going to do I'm going to do that, are you going to come, no I don't want to come to the market, I don't want to go there or we're going to go for a walk, we're going to this, okay you do that.

20

█: Right okay. Once again, did you provide any financial assistance to Angelo for that trip?

COLACICCO: Nope, not that I'm aware of.

25 █: Or during that trip.

COLACICCO: Nope.

█: Any cash? No, that's –

COLACICCO: Look, there could have been a situation where if I had whatever their currency is and he was running out of money and he'd say to me, can you change, give me five hundred of that, and I'd give you five hundred whatever the equivalent was in Australian dollars, that could have happened a couple of times.

30

█: Do you have a recollection of that occurring?

COLACICCO: I have recol – occurring once but I think he needed five hundred dollars in Australian dollars and he gave me the five hundred dollars and I gave him the currency.

35

█: Oh I see.

COLACICCO: Yeah, that's what –

█: It's just a clean swap.

40 COLACICCO: Yeah. that's it yep

█: What was the reason behind that? Was it just a –

COLACICCO: Just to not go to the, a teller or anything like that, or the rate. You know, if I'd had bought some with me from here and I'd say, look, I'll lend it to you just give me the \$500 cash that's it, whatever the equivalent was.

5 [REDACTED]: All right. Moving on from January 2019, do you have a recollection of travelling overseas again with Angelo?

COLACICCO: Not travelling together but he did come to Italy where I was with my family.

[REDACTED]: Okay, and –

COLACICCO: He did that two years in a row I think.

10 [REDACTED]: Yep, so my records suggest that it was June last year.

COLACICCO: Yes, correct.

[REDACTED]: Okay, tell me about that what happened on that occasion?

COLACICCO: He came down to the island that we spent a lot of time at, where I've got family.

15 [REDACTED]: Which island was that?

COLACICCO: Lipari. There's also a sister city there, there was a presentation, they renewed the sister city, thing. There was a big presentation at the local council there.

[REDACTED]: Did you attend that?

20 COLACICCO: Yep, my family yep.

[REDACTED]: Okay. So it was a formal trip for Angelo as far as you were aware?

COLACICCO: As far as I was aware it was, yes.

[REDACTED]: And what happened after that formal part of the travel?

COLACICCO: He stayed on a couple of days with us there. He had a local hotel and then he took off to the rest of his trip.

25 [REDACTED]: So Tsirekas stayed in a local hotel?

COLACICCO: Yes.

[REDACTED]: You said "they", was there more than one?

COLACICCO: He came with his, I think his partner, did she come last year? Heather? Crichton? I think she was with him two days, and then they left, yep.

30 [REDACTED]: All right.

COLACICCO: I'm pretty sure it was last year, I'm not sure about the year before but I'm pretty sure it was last year.

[REDACTED]: Where did they stay do you know the name of the hotel?

35 COLACICCO: Yes, it was La Villetta in Canneto.

[REDACTED]: What's the name of the Island again sorry?

COLACICCO: Lipari is the main island.

[REDACTED]: Can you spelt it for me sorry.

COLACICCO: L-I-P-A-R-I.

40 [REDACTED]: And whereabouts –

COLACICCO: The Sicilian, the Ionian islands, yep.

[REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: Sorry the name of the hotel is La Villetta?
 COLACICCO: La Villetta?
 5 [REDACTED]: Villetta.
 COLACICCO: I, I, what I would do is he let me know the dates there was other
 councillors that came. There were a few functions there.
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: He's let me know some other friends. I helped them with one of the other
 10 councillors, comes from that island, well their parents do. So I helped him,
 I just helped with the accommodation in the sense of I booked the nights
 for him. And told him that's what it will cost you and basically he paid for
 himself and whatever.
 [REDACTED]: Okay, so you made the phone call and made the arrangements but he paid.
 15 COLACICCO: Yeah, when I there, because I was there before him, I made sure that
 everything was booked.
 [REDACTED]: Everything was in place.
 COLACICCO: I did the same for my daughter's friends, my son's friends so, yeah.
 [REDACTED]: Okay, who was the other councillor that you refer to?
 20 COLACICCO: There was Michael Megna, there was Mary-Ann O'Connell I think her
 surname is.
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: Their respective partners. Another lady, Marianna, she used to be on
 council.
 25 [REDACTED]: And did you, after that formal part of that sister city arrangement was
 completed did you have some social interaction with Angelo?
 COLACICCO: Yeah, yeah, look he'd come to the beach, he'd come to the restaurant with
 us, he'd do all that.
 [REDACTED]: And what's the situation with socialising, did he pay his own way or did
 30 you assist him on this occasion?
 COLACICCO: Look, there was times where I'd pay because I had my family it was just
 an extra two people. He'd say, mate, and I'd say, don't worry about it, and
 there were a couple of times that he'd paid.
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 35 COLACICCO: At the local café with Heather, they paid. Then there was one night they
 wanted to take, because my sister and her family were there and Angelo
 knows them as well, because we've had a lot of social family functions.
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 COLACICCO: And, you know, like, my brother-in-law would invite us out for dinner and
 40 he'd pay.
 [REDACTED]: Right.

COLACICCO: We'd all share it around.

█: Okay. Okay, all right.

█: Did you meet anyone else during that overseas trip with Angelo?

COLACICCO: No. Not last year, no. Not even the year before.

5 █: Where did you fly, where did hub through for that? Where did you hub through, so where did you fly to initially from Sydney to get to Italy.

COLACICCO: Sydney, Dubai, Rome.

█: Okay.

COLACICCO: Yep, with my family.

10 █: Okay.

█: Are you okay to carry on for a bit?

COLACICCO: Yeah, yeah.

█: Yeah, we might have a little break in a minute.

COLACICCO: That's okay.

15 █: Just for five minutes.

COLACICCO: No worries.

█: How are we going for time?

█: It's now 12:57pm.

█: We should have a quick break now.

20 COLACICCO: Okay, if you like.

█: Just literally for a couple of minutes.

COLACICCO: Yeah, yeah.

█: Let's stretch how legs.

COLACICCO: Yeah yeah.

25 █: Have a deep breath. And look I'm going to suspend the interview. It's now 12:57pm. And during this interview we won't ask you any further – ah, through the break –

COLACICCO: Sure.

█: - we are not going to ask you any further questions.

30 [Recording 1 ends. Recording 2 begins.]

█: Okay, this is a re-commencement of an electronically recorded interview, the date is 1st of July 2020, the time is now 1:04pm. Frank, during this break, do you agree that neither █ nor I have I asked you further questions about the matters before us today?

35 COLACICCO: Yes.

█: Once again, I remind you that anything you say will be electronically recorded and can be used in Commission's proceedings. Do you understand that?

COLACICCO: Yep.

[REDACTED]: And that if you do choose to provide any answers to us today it must be to the best of your knowledge and belief, because deliberately providing false and misleading information is an offence.

COLACICCO: Yep.

5 [REDACTED]: Do you understand that?

COLACICCO: Yes, I do.

[REDACTED]: All right. I just want to quickly touch on Angelo Tsirekas and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] where he currently resides.

COLACICCO: Yes.

10 [REDACTED]: I understand that he resides at that address at [REDACTED] –

COLACICCO: [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]: [REDACTED], or [REDACTED]?

COLACICCO: [REDACTED], yep. Or [REDACTED], yep.

[REDACTED]: Can you explain, do you have any knowledge of the rental agreements

15 between CobdenHayson and –

COLACICCO: Yes, I do.

[REDACTED]: - the owners of that property?

COLACICCO: Yep so –

[REDACTED]: All right, can you tell me in your own words what that is?

20 COLACICCO: So, obviously once the building got complete and finished they, Angelo, said, look I'd like to go rent a property in there, which he did. And he paid the rent that he had to pay, it was the – at time my office was managing that property

[REDACTED]: Okay.

25 COLACICCO: It was all done through my office. Bond, rental, lease, everything.

[REDACTED]: Okay.

COLACICCO: And basically, that was it. And he's been there ever since.

[REDACTED]: All right, do you know who the owners of the property are?

COLACICCO: Yes.

30 [REDACTED]: The landlords?

COLACICCO: Yes, I do.

[REDACTED]: Who are they?

COLACICCO: It was a company. There was three – it was a company. And then there was three people, it was Daniel Saab.

35 [REDACTED]: Yep.

COLACICCO: Sid Sassine and Carlos something, I don't know remember his surname.

[REDACTED]: Sid Sassine, who? Daniel –

COLACICCO: Saab.

[REDACTED]: Saab. And Carlos –

40 COLACICCO: I can't remember his surname, I think he's Malaysian or something.

█: Okay. Was there anyone else involved in the development of this property?

COLACICCO: Not that I'm aware of.

█: All right, okay. Do you know or do you have knowledge if Tsirekas knows any of those persons?

5 COLACICCO: I know that he knows them, because obviously there was many dealings, there was a lot of public consultations as well.

█: Yeah.

COLACICCO: For the development.

10 █: What do you know about that?

COLACICCO: I attended the public consultations. That was at next door with the, the tenant's now █, did a thing for all the neighbours and the local businesses to attend.

█: Okay what year was this?

15 COLACICCO: I don't know how old it is now? It was five or six years old. If you have got the date, I'm not sure when it was finished (unintelligible).

█: That's okay, I'm just trying to explore your memory of the event. All right so, was there an agreement between – just before I do say that. Do you have a recollection of an agreement between CobdenHayson and the developers, the owners of the property?

20 COLACICCO: Yes.

█: All right, were you involved in drafting that agreement?

COLACICCO: No, my office was.

█: Okay, and were you – subsequently we understand Mr Tsirekas rents a property there, is that correct?

25 COLACICCO: That's correct yep.

█: Where you involved drafting that agreement?

COLACICCO: No, my office was.

█: Okay, and in respects to the agreement, to your knowledge, was the rent paid and the bond paid as per normal by Mr Tsirekas?

30 COLACICCO: Yes, it was.

█: All right. Do you know if Mr Tsirekas has a relationship with either Sid Sassine, Daniel Saab or Carlos?

COLACICCO: Only on the basis of when they were introduced of at the community consultation and that, and also basically I introduced – when I mentioned to them, look, Angelo is interested in renting in there, they said, no problem go, through the normal channels, and that's what we did.

35 █: Oh okay, so who did you speak to about that? That Angelo's interested in renting there.

40 COLACICCO: I was dealing mainly with Daniel Saab.

█: Okay.

COLACICCO: Because I helped them acquire one other properties from one of the past vendors when they were putting the whole development together.

██████: Who was that?

COLACICCO: That was Big T Automotives.

5 ██████: Okay. All right

COLACICCO: Yeah, at the time.

██████: How did you know to approach Mr Saab about Angelo's interest?

COLACICCO: Because I was dealing with him.

██████: Okay.

10 COLACICCO: During the thing, that's why in relation to selling him that one particular property at the time, then he said, would you help me through to, you know, for leasing these properties once they are finished, I said, not a problem.

██████: I see, you got, like, a pre-sale right or management right?

15 COLACICCO: Yeah. Well, I was, it was just a, as it was going through and being built, because at one stage before super, ah sorry, before ██████ had committed to them, I was, I had friends that owned the supermarket branch and I was going to put them in there but it didn't suit them.

██████: So, at some stage, I assume Angelo expressed his interest in moving into an apartment there?

20 COLACICCO: Yes, when it was complete, yes.

██████: When it was complete.

COLACICCO: Yeah.

██████: Right, and you don't recall when it was completed, this development?

25 COLACICCO: I don't know if it's three or four years old, I'm not sure.

██████: You're not sure.

COLACICCO: (Unintelligible) yep.

██████: Do you know what he said to you? Can you recall the words?

COLACICCO: No, just basically said, look I'd like to get a place to move into, I like that building, can you help me out with, you know, can you speak to, who do I have to speak to get a lease? And I said, done, go for it, go to the office, do everything, and I just let the owners know, I said, look, Angelo wants to reside in the place, not a problem, just go through the normal channels.

██████: Why did you go and tell the owners that?

35 COLACICCO: Because I was in daily contact with them. I spoke to Dani Saab a lot because basically we, I was dealing with them, I'd help them out with leasing and whatever.

██████: The normal course of leasing to my understanding is that if a tenant wants to lease a property, they go to a real estate agent.

40 COLACICCO: Correct.

- █: Such as Angelo has approached yourself. Is it the normal course then you would go and speak to the owner of the property, is that how it works?
- COLACICCO: I had a relationship, so I'd just say, look, Angelo is actually going to apply for one of the properties there, you've got no problem with it? No, no problem, that's it.
- 5 █: Oh okay. Alrigh. Was there any –
- COLACICCO: It was all done above board there was no –
- █: Sure. Was there any financial benefit given to Angelo to –
- COLACICCO: No, not at all.
- 10 █: - to rent out that premises.
- COLACICCO: No, not at all.
- █: He would have been alive to, at least, even the perception of impropriety, wouldn't he, Angelo, I assume?
- COLACICCO: What, what do –
- 15 █: Did you have a conversation with him about that?
- COLACICCO: About?
- █: Well, that, that development application.
- COLACICCO: Yeah.
- █: That went through council?
- 20 COLACICCO: Yeah.
- █: To the regional planning panel.
- COLACICCO: Yep.
- █: And so he would have had some official involvement in, as a councillor (unintelligible).
- 25 COLACICCO: Oh look, there was. During the course, there was some times, and I've done that with a lot of my, that's the industry that I'm in. If I ever had to speak with him and say, Angelo, so and so has been trying to get a hold of your department to have a meeting this and that, can you find out, can you help us make an appointment with the Town Planner, head of town – that was just my business.
- 30 █: Sure.
- COLACICCO: But never in –
- █: I just want to go back then to –
- COLACICCO: Yep.
- 35 █: - that particular development.
- COLACICCO: Yep.
- █: Just want to clarify, you became involved as a potential third party, if you like, as someone who could negotiate a sale of part of that block to the consortium who developed it. Is that what you're saying?
- 40 COLACICCO: No, no, what happened was, I got to meet Daniel Saab through – he had done business with our office before.

[REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: And then, this particular property that was acquired, he, they couldn't get to it. So I went and approached the owner and said, look, are you interested in selling this, what they're doing next door, and I put the two together.
 5 [REDACTED]: That's what I meant. So you were involved in, as a third party –
 COLACICCO: I had no financial benefit out of that sale. It was between Dani Saab and the owner of that property.
 [REDACTED]: Right. You didn't have a sales agreement with the owner of the property?
 10 COLACICCO: No. I introduced them.
 [REDACTED]: Yep.
 COLACICCO: 'Cause the guy didn't want to sign up because he'd been burnt from another agent.
 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 15 COLACICCO: So, I introduced him to Dani Saab and the guy did the deal themselves. But then after I built up a relationship with Dani, and a personal one, what happened was, we ended up, I ended up getting the management of it for my business.
 [REDACTED]: Right.
 20 COLACICCO: And my business partner and like the office.
 [REDACTED]: Did you sell any or did you –.
 COLACICCO: No, they haven't been sold.
 [REDACTED]: So, they're all leased.
 COLACICCO: They're all leased. And some of them, I think thirty-odd are leased to
 25 Department of Defence housing. They did that themselves.
 [REDACTED]: Right. So how many, at the time that you took over or entered into an agreement, how many units were you managing?
 COLACICCO: About thirty.
 [REDACTED]: About thirty, so sort of fifty per cent.
 30 COLACICCO: Yeah fifty percent.
 [REDACTED]: (Unintelligible) defence housing and thirty percent through CobdenHayson. And did you negotiate that agreement whilst the development application was going through council?
 COLACICCO: No, it was later. They got their approval and everything. They had 18
 35 months of construction.
 [REDACTED]: Right, okay. So, was it during the construction phase?
 COLACICCO: Yes. Like, during the construction he started saying, Frank I need quotes on potential leases, as it got closer to finishing.
 [REDACTED]: So, prior to the development application being submitted, were you aware
 40 of any relationship between Daniel Saab and Angelo Tsirekas?
 COLACICCO: Prior to being submitted?

- █: Yeah.
- COLACICCO: No, I think they, I think they got to get to know each other during the submission.
- █: Okay.
- 5 COLACICCO: I don't think it was prior.
- █: What about prior to the development application being submitted? Were you aware of any relationship between Angelo Tsirekas and Sid Sassine?
- COLACICCO: No. Not that I'm aware of.
- █: And what about Carlos, whose surname ...?
- 10 COLACICCO: No. Not that I'm aware of.
- █: All right.
- █: The three owners that you talked about, Sid Sassine, Daniel Saab and Carlos, are they, to your knowledge, the true owners of that particular property?
- 15 COLACICCO: As far as I'm aware, it was a company and it could be on our, it should be on our leasing agreement and everything, yes as far as I'm aware. It was a company, I'm pretty sure
- █: Okay. All right. I think I'll just ask one final question then I'll hand over to █.
- 20 COLACICCO: Yep.
- █: And just before we finish up, this a fairly broad question and, take some time to think about it. Have you ever approached Tsirekas seeking favours from him to exercise his official functions relating to any business matters that you may have had or do have before Canterbury – ah, sorry before
- 25 Canada Bay Council?
- COLACICCO: No.
- █: Never lobbied him for DAs or planning proposals?
- COLACICCO: No, my, my, through the time that I've known him, █, I've always basically – yes I have spoken to him or called him and said, mate, can we
- 30 get a meeting with so and so, I've got these developers and there's a bit of an argument going on, can we get around the table and sort this out. That was part of my job. That was the field that I (unintelligible).
- █: So, not for yourself, but what you're telling me is that you've called him and arranged meetings on behalf of other developers and got them
- 35 together.
- COLACICCO: Yes, I have. Yes, and got them together in the council. They got together or they had a meeting, usually and say, well, what's it about, I want to have a look at what it's about, and they'd discuss it, and that was basically
- 40 it.
- █: Right.

COLACICCO: And he would say, okay, this is what you've got to approach, or this is what's happened, you've got to go and basically see so and so, or this is what I recommend you do, this is not going to happen. Twenty years of it, fifteen years of it.

5 [REDACTED]: No that's okay. So, I just want to be crystal clear on this. You have put some people together with Angelo, as they requested you to do that, and you've done that.

COLACICCO: Yep.

10 [REDACTED]: And that may be developers or persons who've got issues before Canada Bay Council.

COLACICCO: Before Canada Bay Council (unintelligible) –

[REDACTED]: And you've done that because you have a relationship with Angelo?

COLACICCO: Yeah, and I've met, along the way I've met other people in the council and I'd sometimes, I'd ring them direct and say, look, we're having an issue

15 with so and so, can we come and see you and resolve this.

[REDACTED]: Right. And that's one aspect.

COLACICCO: Yep.

[REDACTED]: The second aspect I asked you earlier is whether or not you've approached Angelo, spoken to him, lobbied him on anything that you have an interest

20 in.

COLACICCO: No.

[REDACTED]: In the Canada Bay area.

COLACICCO: No.

[REDACTED]: And just so you're clear, when we say you've had an interest, that could be you or your business. So, it could be a development that you have sales

25 with – potentially sales agreements or property management agreements or they're having problems. Have you ever done that?

COLACICCO: As I've said, I've gone to him and said, look, you know, this client of mine have got –

30 [REDACTED]: Right, that's what we mean.

COLACICCO: Yeah, yeah, no (unintelligible).

[REDACTED]: Yeah, okay, so we're not talking about Mr Colacicco as in, I've got a DA, we're talking about you as a principal of an real estate entity. So can you give us a couple of examples of properties that you were looking to enter

35 into agreements for, where you have approached Angelo and said, we have some issues, my client has got some issues.

COLACICCO: In my line of work, I've tried to – I mean, there could be a lot of properties while he was in council as a Councillor, or as a Mayor, I've gone and said, look, can you organise a meeting with so and so, they're going this,

40 they've got this development and they've had issues with the council. They want to try and resolve it, how can we do that?

[REDACTED]: Yeah, sure I understand that but (unintelligible).
 COLACICCO: I can't specify what particular ones because there's been many over the years.
 [REDACTED]: I'm trying to turn your mind to, if I can, just trying to get you to turn your mind to those development –
 5 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: - that CobdenHayson –
 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: - or associated entities are, or were, either in agreements or enter into agreements for, to be, to sell or manage the properties, where that company or an associated company will get a financial benefit. That's what I'm trying to turn your mind to so I'm –
 10 COLACICCO: That, that –
 [REDACTED]: When's the last time that happened, just give us a couple of examples.
 15 COLACICCO: Like, there was one in Hampton Road, a block of eight that, for instance, we managed. And the owners came to me and said, Frank how can we, we want to, we were thinking of putting another two units on top. So they went out and we, I helped them source a town planner or whatever, an architect. And then there was a, it went kind like a pre-DA meeting or something like that. And if there was an issue, if I saw Angelo because we see each other a lot, I'd say, mate, there's an issue with this property, can you get us in front of whoever and we can sort out. But I was managing that property. But then I, later on, they were going to develop it, and then just last year the owner said to me, Frank, we are going separate ways between me and my brothers, can you put on the market and sold it, I put it on the market and sold it with DA approval. But that's it. Then there was, you know, a big one years ago in Five Dock down at Axes where the old Energy Australia was. Same thing, but it was never directly to him. It was these guys are coming in, they are building eighty odd units or whatever, they've had a few issues, they want to come around the table, sit around the table, and organise to speak to whoever is in charge, and eventually they resolve whatever they had to resolve, and then I went off and marketed the properties and sold the properties, with my companies.
 20
 25
 30
 [REDACTED]: So, what you're saying is that you would approach – I just want to, so we are all clear.
 35 COLACICCO: Yep.
 [REDACTED]: You would approach Angelo and say, look, we need to facilitate, can you please facilitate some kind meeting –
 COLACICCO: Well, whether it was Angelo –
 40 [REDACTED]: - to resolve some issues.
 COLACICCO: Yeah, that's right.

[REDACTED]: Because, like you said, you meet him all the time.
 COLACICCO: Yeah, yeah,
 [REDACTED]: He would, and what – I think what you are saying to me, and correct me if I'm wrong, on occasions, and you've given us a couple of examples, he would go away and he would then speak to someone in council.
 5 COLACICCO: And get them us to ring us and say, yeah.
 [REDACTED]: You need to speak to Frank or you need to speak to Frank and the developer.
 COLACICCO: Yes, yes.
 10 [REDACTED]: Because there's these issues.
 COLACICCO: Yes, yes.
 [REDACTED]: Right.
 COLACICCO: Yep so (unintelligible).
 [REDACTED]: And occasionally, did you go and meet at council?
 15 COLACICCO: Sometimes I'd go and meet,
 [REDACTED]: And when you would meet you would meet with, I assume, planning officers?
 COLACICCO: Planning officers or whoever was handling that application and, you know, I got to know them over the years, I mean at functions or whatever.
 20 [REDACTED]: Yep.
 COLACICCO: You'd see them and I'd say, look, this is so and so and, you know, we are having this issue, can we resolve it. You know, for me it was, of course I'm going to try and be involved because then I've got stock to sell later on.
 25 [REDACTED]: Yeah.
 COLACICCO: But that was the only financial benefit I'd get out of it, as a company.
 [REDACTED]: Sure, and Angelo, Angelo would know that these people are clients of yours, you'd tell him.
 COLACICCO: Yes, of course, because we've done a lot of sales in the area, a lot of
 30 developments in the area.
 [REDACTED]: Well, I've got nothing further to ask unless [REDACTED] wants to.
 [REDACTED]: No, not at this stage.
 [REDACTED]: All right, is there anything you want to raise with us?
 COLACICCO: No, look –
 35 [REDACTED]: Disclose with us, or question?
 COLACICCO: No, no. There was basically, obviously, as I said to you on the phone the other day it was news to me, you know, I was like geez what happened, you know, like I'm here to answer anything and be truthful about it and that's it. I've helped him out as a mate personally with some money, which
 40 he is going to give back to me, and that's basically all that's it. Even his apartment, like I said to you, I even said to him, not lying, mate, what are

you still doing there, there are cheaper apartments. Why don't you go out and get something cheaper, but he said look I'm waiting for the sale of the house and then I'm going to go buy something, you know.

██████: Okay.

5 COLACICCO: That's basically it.

██████: All right.

COLACICCO: And I'm happy, in regards to those trips, if, you know, I'm just sorry I can't remember all the people at the time that were there, as you can see we have done a fair few trips.

10 ██████: No that's okay. Look I've got nothing further to ask you in relation to this matter today. Before we do finish up there are just some final questions. Have the answers you provided here today been of your own free will?

COLACICCO: Yes.

15 ██████: And everything you've provided to us today and in terms of answers been made to the best of your knowledge and belief?

COLACICCO: Yes.

██████: Has there been any offer of inducements, threats or advantages held out to you by either ██████ or I for you to answer today?

COLACICCO: No.

20 ██████: Are you satisfied in the way that the interview has been conducted with you today?

COLACICCO: Yes.

██████: All right. So the time is now 1:24pm and I'll cease the interview.