



That suggests that somebody paid for all the accommodation and then, so how did it come about?---Yeah. Thank you, thank you. So I'll explain. We went to pay in the morning after we finished, we were trying to pay to leave, and we were told that the accommodation has been taken care of. And it
10 wasn't just us, like, me, Vince and my wife, there's other people that were staying there, other Chinese that were staying there, and Mr Liu China paid for it and we said, no – let's call him Mr Liu China. The lady said, "Mr Liu China has paid for it." We were having breakfast and we were trying to pay and we said, "You can't pay for us. No, we have to pay. It doesn't work like this. We have to pay for it." And they said, "No, no. He gets very upset, he's paid already, you can't." So back and forward, arguing back and forward - - -

20 Okay. Just stop. This is you discussing it with - - -?---Not me, my wife. My wife and Vince.

And you - - -?---I'm just standing there listening.

All right. With the receptionist or something like that?---Yes, yeah, yeah.

Okay.---And, and, and Mr Liu's staff as well, and other Chinese people that were part of that, the thing. So they're all there, like, we're going, "No, no, you can pay for them but you can't pay for us." My wife said, "You can't
30 pay for us." And Vince goes, "You can't pay for me and you can't pay for us."

MS HEGER: Can you name any of the Chinese people who were involved in this discussion?---I wouldn't have a clue who they are and what they are. They're Chinese people, there's so many of them, I don't know who they are. If I saw their face I would know them but I don't know, face-to-face, because when you ask them "What's your name?" and he says "Jack" and he could be something else. So it's very difficult to know. So when we said, and then to my recollection, that's from my recollection – and the
40 reason I remember this is because that's the information that was put into The Sydney Morning Herald when we went for defamation. So, Vince Badalati grabs 2,000 RMB and my wife grabs 4,000 RMB and says, "Whether you like it or not, it's on the table. You're going to (not transcribable) to his staff, you take it, give it to the waiters, give it to anybody. We don't care. Our job is we have to pay it for ourselves." You know, thank you, off you go. And we did the same thing in Chinatown as well. So, yeah, so I checked, so they, how do you get a receipt? You don't get a receipt.

THE COMMISSIONER: Hold on.---Yeah.

So Mr Badalati and your wife, after having this debate, took out Chinese currency?---Yes.

And put it on - - -?---Yeah, gave it to him,

10 - - - the reception desk or whatever?---It wasn't the reception desk. We didn't give it to the reception, we gave it to the staff of Liu China.

Oh, okay.---Because, because the reception says, "I don't want to hear it, I've already been paid."

20 All right.---"You're not paying me double." So we give to the other people. So they were talking to China Liu's staff who were there, they needed to pick us up and take us back to Beijing. I should have said, no, he wasn't there. So, "No, you're not, you're not, you're not paying. He gets upset if he, if he knows that you've paid." We said, "We don't care, take it and give it to the waiters." So that's how the discussion went. So we've put the money there and we left.

MS HEGER: All right. So you said Mrs Hindi put down 4,000 RMB, that is local currency obviously.---Yeah. It's about 800 bucks, is it, something like this, I don't know.

Yes, I think about \$890.---Yeah, yeah. All right.

30 Where did she get that money from? Did you just have it on you at the time?---There was, we probably had some cash and we did an exchange.

Well, I think at one point you said you weren't sure whether you had cash but this does suggest you had cash, doesn't it?---I did, I did say that it wasn't a wad of a cash, it wasn't thousands, that's what I said, probably about 3,000 you said. So roughly like this.

40 All right.---3,000 times 6,000. So, I don't recall exactly but it's something that I, you don't, you don't walk away with \$10,000, that's stupid, 'cause like you'd get, you'd get, you'd get robbed and you'd lose it all. So you've got a little bit of cash to be able to bargain. Your credit card doesn't work over there to bargain with people. It's cash when you buy clothes, you buy things. It's the cash that does the thing over there. Everyone goes overseas takes cash.

But did you withdraw that 4,000 RMB to make this payment on that day or did you already have it with you?---When you have the cash, you don't withdraw. You go to the person who gives you cash and you put it in your pocket and you use it.

THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry, so you're saying that at some stage you'd exchanged some Australia cash for Chinese cash?---Yes, yeah.

The question was did you do that specifically to pay for the accommodation or it was just like a general float that you had in your pocket?---No, no. Thank you. It's a general float that you have in your pocket. And the reason being, we weren't expecting that Mr Liu China would be paying, right, for the hotel. We would have used our credit card and said, "Here's a credit card, we'll pay." But because you, they wouldn't take the credit card, they will insist, "You can't, he's already paid," we had to give them something some way. So, the cash that we had spare that we were going to use for, for shopping and all that, we had to put it there, we had no choice. That's the only reason. Otherwise we would have used our card but they didn't accept it. It was, it's only eight hundred bucks or whatever, it's nothing, so we just say, "Here's the card."

Sorry, can I just go over this?---Ah hmm.

20 You go up to reception or the concierge with Mr Badalati and your wife to pay and they say, "It's all been taken care of by China Liu."---Yep, ah hmm.

And while you're standing around having that discussion, there's some members of staff, from China Liu's staff?---That, there's some members from the China Liu staff and there are members of the people that were on that trip with us, the, seven or eight other members.

The other invitees?---Other, other invitees, seven or eight of them that were there.

30 Okay.---So it was probably about 10 people altogether.

But you saw Mr Badalati and your wife in some way leave money or give money to China Liu's staff?---I didn't, I didn't see that because I wasn't looking specifically.

Well, how do you know that occurred?---Because they told me.

40 All right.---There's a stat dec that came from Vince as to what happened. My wife said, "Yeah, that's right." So I didn't actually witness it.

MS HEGER: You mentioned a stat dec. Who did that stat dec?
---Vince got a stat dec from somebody who was there because the, because The Herald would not accept that we, that we paid and they said, "You're lying, they paid," and we said, I said, "Vince, do you know anybody? I'll get a stat dec." So the guy gave him a card or something and he rang him and he said, "Yeah, I'll send you a stat dec. I was there, I saw it."