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PUBLIC
HEARING

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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

THE HONOURABLE REGINALD BLANCH AM QC

PUBLIC HEARING

OPERATION TARLO

Reference: Operation E15/1982

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT SYDNEY

ON THURSDAY 13 JULY, 2017

AT 10.00AM

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This transcript has been prepared in accordance with conventions used in the Supreme Court.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Chhabra.

MR CHHABRA: Commissioner, I'd seek the usual direction.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

10 Then pursuant to section 38 of the Independent Commission Against
Corruption Act, I declare that all the answers given by this witness and all
documents and things produced by this witness during the course of the
witness's evidence at this public inquiry are to be regarded as having been
given or produced on objection and there is no need for the witness to make
objection in respect of any particular answer given or document or thing
produced.

20 **PURSUANT TO SECTION 38 OF THE INDEPENDENT
COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION ACT, I DECLARE THAT
ALL THE ANSWERS GIVEN BY THIS WITNESS AND ALL
DOCUMENTS AND THINGS PRODUCED BY THIS WITNESS
DURING THE COURSE OF THE WITNESS'S EVIDENCE AT THIS
PUBLIC INQUIRY ARE TO BE REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN
GIVEN OR PRODUCED ON OBJECTION AND THERE IS NO
NEED FOR THE WITNESS TO MAKE OBJECTION IN RESPECT
OF ANY PARTICULAR ANSWER GIVEN OR DOCUMENT OR
THING PRODUCED.**

THE COMMISSIONER: That gives you the protection, Mr Hammo - - -

30 MR HAMMO: Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: - - - that Mr Chhabra has no doubt explained to
you. Now, will you take an oath or an affirmation?

MR HAMMO: Affirmation.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

<HAIMAN HAMMO, affirmed

[10.11am]

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Rajalingam.

MR RAJALINGAM: Thank you, Commissioner. May you state your full name for the record.---Haiman Hammo.

10 And how do you spell your last name?---H-a-m-m-o.

First name?---Haiman, H-a-i-m-a-n.

Where are you currently living?---In [REDACTED] with my wife.

And that's with Ms Sharobeem isn't it?---Yes, yes.

When did you first meet her?---I first met her in around 2000 possibly or before.

20 Around 1999/2000, would you accept that?---Yeah.

How did you meet her?---Through my brother-in-law.

In what context did you meet first?---She, she was – I think I was working in Centrelink and my brother-in-law was asking me for information and he said there's someone coming from Egypt, that she would be single and, you know, she had trouble and she's single with two children what's the situation and I met her at their place. When she came she stayed at their place and so that's when I met her first.

30 When - - -

MR CHHABRA: Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Chhabra.

MR CHHABRA: I apologise to Counsel Assisting. A matter has arisen which would require – I ask for a five minute adjournment to speak to Counsel Assisting.

40 THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Thank you. I'll adjourn for five minutes.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

[10.13am]

MR CHHABRA: I thank the Commissioner for the indulgence.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Rajalingam.

MR RAJALINGAM: Thank you, Commissioner. Mr Hammo you were giving some evidence about first meeting Ms Sharobeem at your brother-in-law's place. Is that correct?---That's right.

When you first met her how was she introduced to you?---Um, she was their friend.

10

THE COMMISSIONER: Do you mean by name, by name?

MR RAJALINGAM: Yes, yes.---She was – oh.

Yes.---As Eman. I didn't know her second name but, yeah.

All right. Did you know she was a doctor when you met her?---No, she was not.

20

Did you know her to be referred to as Dr Sharobeem when you first met her?---Not when I first met her, no.

When did you first come to know that she went by the name Dr Sharobeem?---Possibly after – I will give you a date, probably 2005/2006.

And how did she tell you – or did she – firstly, did she tell you in about 2006 that she had become a doctor of some sort?---Yes.

30

How did – what did she say to you?---Well, it was in a discussion because my brother-in-law and his family sort of objected to her calling herself a doctor and, yeah, she told me that she insists on that because of what she has been awarded in Egypt after she left. When I first met her then she left back to Egypt and came back, you know, with that title so - - -

When did you first start going out with her?---That was just, you know, before we got married, probably a year or so, yeah.

40

You said in November last year that you thought you might have started a relationship with Ms Sharobeem in about 2009?---I had a friendly relationship with her, you know, from the beginning, yeah, but ah, 2009 I didn't say I had a relationship with her, but you know, we were friends, so that was the nature of the relationship and, yeah, and we've been close on phone contact, she's been, you know, a friend with me during my, you know, divorce, previous divorce and so on.

So you've at least known her since 1999 - - -?---Yes.

- - - 2000?---Yes.

When did you come to meet her children?---When she arrived, when she arrived to Australia they were friends of my children and my children also started, you know, going to her place. The whole family, extended family, you know, she was part of our extended family or she became, yeah.

10 You said you thought – I withdraw that. You said that Ms Sharobeem told you in effect in about 2006 that she had obtained a doctorate qualification of some sort. Would you accept that?---Yes.

Did you think at that stage that she was a psychologist?---Ah, no ah, we were discussing the nature of the qualifications and I knew it was from the American university. I was wondering if it was like a study that she was doing - - -

20 No, hold on. I'm asking you about when she told you about this honorary doctorate or the qualification, did she also tell you that she was a psychologist?---Not a psychologist, but related to psychology and we were, I was telling her what do you need to be a psychologist, why can't you, you know, do that instead of this, this job that you're doing? She said she needed two to three years of study, you know, for her to ah, get that qualifications and to be able to be registered as - - -

Did you know that she was treating clients as a psychologist?---I knew that people were being referred to her and she was counselling them and referring them, you know, on. So, but to treat them as a, in a psychological procedure as patients, no, I didn't know that.

30 Well, were you aware that she was referring to some of her clients as patients?---I can't remember, you know, her ever calling them patients, you know - - -

Do you know - - -?--- - - - but clients maybe.

40 Do you know if she was telling the Department of Corrective Services that she was a psychologist, do you know anything about her work with that department?---No, but I knew that she was dealing with many departments and many - - -

I'm just asking about Department of Corrective Services?--- - - - cases, you know, cases, like.

And just on that topic, you were well aware, weren't you, that she was treating a young man who was on parole, weren't you?---(No Audible Reply)

You knew that, didn't you, Mr Hammo?---From the hearing, you know, I learnt a lot about her, but I - - -

But did you know it – my question is, did you know at the time - - -?
--- - - - I know the people there, I know the young man and all that so - - -

Did you know that their son was in gaol, didn't you?---Not, you know, ah, fully. I, I, yes, I knew that he was in gaol but - - -

10 Then you knew that he got released, didn't you?---Yes.

And he was on parole. You knew that, didn't you?---No, I don't know.

You didn't know when he was released he was on parole?---I didn't ask questions. I don't, you know, these are - - -

After 2006 you were aware that your partner is seeing people in a psychological context. Is that your evidence?---Um - - -

20 She was counselling people?---She was counselling people and I knew that the church was referring people to her, mainly from the, from the Coptic Egyptian Church and other people, other doctors, local doctors, general practitioners, you know, referring people and women to her for ah, ah, dealing with her and referring them on to move them to other services, yeah.

So you were aware she received referrals from the church. Correct?---Yeah, she has a reputation.

30 Just, just the question is, were you aware that she was receiving referrals from the church?---She was receiving people from the church, yes.

And you're at least aware that she was receiving those referrals to counsel those people. Correct?---Yes.

And she was also receiving referrals from doctors, wasn't she?---Ah - - -

40 That's what your evidence was?---There was a general practitioner that ah, who is her friend and ah, I think, you know, he was referring to her or telling his patients about her, you know. Ah, whatever their needs, I don't know. Whatever they discuss there, I don't know, yeah.

When you knew Ms Sharobeem in 2006 and she told you this about her background or her qualifications, what did you know about her work for the Immigrant Women's Health Service at that stage?---2006?

Yes?---I know, I knew the centre and I've worked with the centre as an interpreter before she arrived to the centre, so I've been in the centre before

so I know it's a place that dealt with woman issues, domestic violence, but I didn't feel, you know, men were welcomed there.

No, well - - -?---And that changed afterwards.

Yeah, that's all right?---Yeah.

10 My question is, did you know what her role at the IWH was essentially, did you know what she was doing?---She was managing the whole place where there was different groups.

Well, did you understand her to be the boss of the Immigrant Women's Health Service?---Different groups and - - -

Did you understand her to be the boss of the Immigrant Women's Health Service?---Yes.

Yes. And you knew that since 2006, didn't you?---Before that.

20 Before that?---I knew that, yeah.

And after two thousand and - - -?---When she was employed, 2004.

30 That's right. After 2006 her career took on a public profile, didn't it? ---It probably took on a, yes, she's, I think through her partnerships and her efforts to network and all that, you know, speaking with ministers and so her profile has lifted, but it became specialised in certain areas after I think there was a magazine article in the Weekend Australian that, that sort of made her the woman that under age marriage and domestic violence and all this.

And you were interested in her public life, weren't you, you were interested to read about it?---Yes.

You were interested to hear about it, weren't you?---Yes.

And when she appeared on the radio, when she spoke on the radio you would listen to her, wouldn't you?---No.

40 Well, she was your partner, would you not listen to her when she was on the radio? There was only a couple of edits a couple of times?---No. When the radio would call, the Arabic radio and that, she would answer from the phone, you know. I'm next to her, I could hear what she's saying on that, yeah.

I see. So you would be there with her when she was actually doing the show for the radio on the phone. Is that - - -?---Yeah, or I would take her to the studio and - - -

And you would have been there for example the Insight program. Correct?
---No, I haven't been. That particular program or show I didn't attend. I
went - - -

That was a pretty important show for your partner wasn't it?---It - - -

It raised her profile didn't it?---I wouldn't – yeah, I don't know what to
answer you. Like, yeah, it, it could.

10 She was on TV wasn't she, Mr Hammo?

MR CHHABRA: I object, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

THE WITNESS: It's – yes, she was on TV and she was, you know, she's a
very expressive woman when asked and, yeah.

MR RAJALINGAM: And did you see and listen to her on the TV when she
20 was on the Insight program?

MR CHHABRA: I object, Commissioner.

THE WITNESS: I think I've seen - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Just, just - - -

THE WITNESS: I've seen a few shows - - -

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Just a moment.

THE WITNESS: - - - like The Project - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Chhabra?

MR CHHABRA: Notwithstanding the - - -

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

40 MR CHHABRA: - - - low level or threshold of relevance, I fail to see the
relevance of this witness's assessment of Ms Sharobeem's public profile or
his interest therein.

THE COMMISSIONER: I think the question might be going to knowledge.
Yes, I'll allow the question. Yes.

MR RAJALINGAM: Mr Hammo, did you - - - ?---Hammo.

Sorry, Mr?---Hammo.

Hammo. Sorry, I apologise.---Hammo.

When you – did you hear and listen to her on the Insight program?---No.
That particular I didn't but I heard that she went there and, yeah, I didn't
- - -

10 Was there any - - -?--- - - - I didn't pay attention to that account.

Was there any other occasion when Ms Sharobeem was on the television?
---There was The Project. She was on The Project once.

Any other occasion?---(No Audible Reply)

Apart from more recently?---I think she was interviewed by Channel 9, the
Current Affairs, forgot the name, who – but I didn't see that. I - - -

20 Did you - - -?--- - - - I heard that she was.

Did you know that in these shows and in these radio programs that your
partner was purporting to be a psychologist?---Eman in her answers and fast
talk would – she has a tendency to agree with whatever other people, you
know, would say. She would say yes and go talking. I think that's a fault of
her that would give – she sort of agrees with other people's impression.
Maybe that's what's in her mind but she tends to say yes and move on.

30 Well, I'm not asking about her tending to say yes. In the SBS Insight
program she herself referred to, she referred to herself as a psychologist.
---Yeah.

Do you, do you, did you - - -?---I heard that.

You heard that?---Yes.

And when she was on the program are you sure you didn't watch her?---No,
I didn't watch her.

40 Were you at the studio?---I watched it when, when you played it here.

Were you at the studio, at the SBS studio - - -?---No.

- - - when she was there?---No.

Where were you on that day?---What day was it, what date?

It was 29 May, 2012. That was when it was - - ----2012?

- - - aired but I'm not sure when the day of the program was but - - ----No, no.

When Ms Sharobeem was at the Insight program you don't know where you were?---No. I wasn't, I wasn't, you know, at that time, 2012 we were just, you know, you know, on a phone relationship. We met, we, yeah, we didn't
- - -

10 Are you sure about that, Mr Hammo, because when I asked you about that in November last year you said – I asked you when did your friendship turn into something else and I seek - - ----I would, I - - -

I seek leave to rely on that evidence.

THE COMMISSIONER: Grant leave.

VARIATION OF SUPPRESSION ORDER

20

THE WITNESS: Can I (not transcribable) - - -

MR RAJALINGAM: Just let me finish the question.---Okay.

You said that you started – your answer to my question was 2009. Page 93, “When did your friendship turn into something else?” “Well, I'd say about 2009.” Then I said, “When did you get engaged, when did you get engaged to her?” You said, “2014.” So in my understanding you were going out for about five years. Is that - - -?---We got married 2014.

30

When did you get engaged?---So in November, 2013.

Okay.---Yes.

So much the same, you told me in November that you started going out effectively in 2009. And you sealed the deal - - -?---Yes, we met - - -

- - - at the end of 2013.---Yeah. I - - -

40 No, no. You've told this Commission you met in 1999/2000 - - -?---No, no, um - - -

- - - at your brother-in-law's place.---Okay. Yeah.

So I want you to be precise about this. When did you start going out?
---Yeah, I said we met each other – not met each other in beginning, but we met in restaurant, we met in places. She was, she didn't know directions. I would direct her especially to the, to the city, you know. I would be with

her on the phone, "I'm going to this place, to this place, to this place." So I was the one – she wouldn't have been, you know, going to these places at all if I wasn't, you know, her GPS.

What about the Insight program? Did you have to take her to the Insight program?---No, no.

Just that one?---I can't remember that. I'm just telling you the truth.

10 You can't remember the program?---No.

I'm suggesting to you, Mr Hammo, that by 2012 you and Ms Sharobeem were quite close and you would have been well interested in her public profile.---I might have directed her to the SBS studio.

Okay. Well, forget about the directions.---Which, and I don't know where it is.

20 I'm asking you about whether or not you were watching that program at around about the time it was aired. What's your answer to that question? A genuine answer to that question, Mr Hammo.---I can't remember.

All right.---That time - - -

Prior, okay, we'll leave that topic. Prior to becoming engaged with Ms Sharobeem, do you recall renting a unit from Charlie, her son?---From her, yeah.

30 Did you understand Charlie to be the owner of that unit?---Yes.

So effectively you were renting it from him, weren't you?---Yes.

Was Ms Sharobeem the middle person in that rental agreement?---Yes.

And can you explain the circumstances surrounding that rental?---Um - - -

When did it start, how much did you pay and so on.---When he first bought it.

40 Do you know when that was?---Maybe 2009.

Yeah.---And - - -

What happened after he first bought it?---Or 2008. It needed renovation and I gave some money for renovation, and it cost - - -

Who lived in it after it was purchased?---Charlie.

Yeah. For how long did he live in it?---I can't - - -

Roughly.---Yeah, (not transcribable) maybe nine, 10 months.

When did you start renting it?---Probably around 2010.

'10?---Yeah.

10 And is that once you and Ms Sharobeem were a little closer?---We were always friends, so - - -

Were you going, were you in a relationship at that time?---No, no.

Are you sure about that?---It's, no, not in the sense that you're, you're indicating.

20 Well, I didn't indicate it, Mr Hammo. You told me in November last year that you started going out in 2009. I'm just trying to get things clear.---No, you said close. We were close, yes.

Okay. So, hold on. Did you start going out with her in 2009?---In your terms - - -

2009 - - -?--- - - - going out with her romantically, you mean?

Yes, romantically.---No.

30 All right.---Yeah, but we were in touch, in touch and, you know, friends. So - - -

You've been friends since 1999, haven't you?---Yes.

All right.---Yes, and - - -

Who did you – how much rent did you pay Charlie?---In the beginning it was 250 and then it went up to 270, and I think in the end it was 290.

40 And when did you start renting? Again, I'm asking you.---2010, I'd say, I said. And - - -

Do you recall renting it after he was in the property? Or was there someone else in the property?---I think there was someone else.

Do you remember who they were?---No.

Did you at some stage purchase the property from your son?---No. No, I have another property - - -

On the same, on the Great Western Highway?--- - - - in the same building complex, yeah.

Okay. How long did you rent the property from Charlie?---It wasn't an apartment, studio apartment. It's just a studio room.

The question is how long did you rent it from Charlie?---About four, four and a half years.

10 Four and a half years?---Probably four, four and a half years, yeah. Till we – till I moved in, into their house, yeah.

And when was that?---We got married. 2014.

After the honeymoon?---Yes.

Where was the honeymoon?---There was no honeymoon because actually - - -

20 What happened after the wedding?--- - - - we went - - -

Hold on, hold on, I'll withdraw that.---After the wedding?

There was no honeymoon. That's your answer to my question?---Yes.

After the wedding - - -?---We were in Darling Harbour.

- - - did you go on a holiday?---We went on a holiday.

30 Where was the holiday?---I think the Gold Coast.

Where did you stay?---I can't remember because - - -

How long did you stay on the Gold Coast?--- - - -the Gold Coast, I've stayed on the Gold Coast many places.

How long did you stay on the Gold Coast after your wedding?---I can't remember.

40 Really?---Probably a week. Possibly a week.

How many times have you been married?---(No Audible Reply)

How many times have you been married?---Twice.

Twice. When was the last time you were married?---(not transcribable)

A long time ago, hey?---Yes.

Did you go on a honeymoon for your first wedding?---Yes.

Where did you go?---Snowy Mountains.

Sorry?---Snowy Mountains.

You can remember - - -?---Jindabyne.

10 - - - where you went in 1984?---Yes.

But are you telling this Commission you can't remember where you went in, what, 2014?---Yes. I'm not saying - - -

Are you being - - -?--- - - - I can't remember but you asked me about the place, in Gold Coast it's full of apartments, there was one, because I went with my family, with you know, you're talking about recently, and recently I went many times as well.

20 I'm talking about after your wedding with Ms Sharobeem, you said you went to the Gold Coast. Do you remember the name of the hotel?---Is it the Vibe?

I'm asking you the question.---Probably.

I want your answer to it.---Okay. There was, there was a time, I think there was a hotel, the Classic Holiday Hotel on, which is directly on the beach, and I went to that with my parents as well.

30 I am talking about after your wedding.---I really can't remember.

Did you go to the Gold Coast after your wedding with your parents?---No, we didn't go to the - after the wedding.

Did you go to - I'm asking you, after the wedding did you go to the Gold Coast with your parents?---Yes.

Did you go to the Gold Coast with Ms Sharobeem after your wedding?
---Yes.

40

And you took - are they the same incident, is that the same event, did you go together with your parents and Ms Sharobeem?---No, of course not. Yeah.

I'm talking to you, Mr Hammo, about - - -?---Yeah.

- - - the trip you took with Ms Sharobeem. Forget everybody else.---Okay.

Okay. And I'm talking to you about 2014 - - -?---We did use that package.

- - - after your – just, just wait?---Yes.

After – I'm talking about 2014 after the wedding with Ms Sharobeem, did you go on a holiday immediately after the wedding or sometime thereafter?
---You saying honeymoon - - -

No, no, no, I didn't say a honeymoon.---You did.

10

My question was holiday.---Yes, we did go on a holiday.

Where was – I'm talking about that holiday and that holiday alone. Where was it?---I answered you, there was a hotel on the beach and the hotel, Classic Holidays.

The Classic Club Holidays paid for it, did they?---Possibly. No. We paid for it. I paid for it and it's a package, so you buy - - -

20

Have you got your receipt for the payment?--- - - - weeks. Sorry?

Have you got your receipt for the payment of the Classic Club Holiday Hotel?---Do I have it? No. I can't remember.

Do you remember the name of the hotel you were staying at?---If I go back to my emails or, yeah, I might be able to.

When you moved into [REDACTED] were - - -?---But I remember Classic, the word Classic on the, on the building.

30

All right. When you moved into [REDACTED] were the kids there, Richard and Charlie?---Yes.

Were you aware when you moved in that many of the items had been purchased using IWHS funds?---No.

Who did you think was paying for Foxtel?---Ah, they were.

Who's they?---Ah, the whole family or Eman, you know.

40

Who did you think was paying for the water bill?---Ah, she was.

What about electricity?---Ah, she was.

Was she also paying the telephone bill?---Yes.

Was she responsible for all bills?---Yes.

Did she do the personal grocery shopping on Saturdays mainly?---Ah - - -

That's what you told me on - - -?---Mainly on Saturdays?

Yeah?---We did that together, yeah.

She would often do it herself, wouldn't she?---Sometimes, not often, but - - -

10 Was there a place for personal household receipts at [REDACTED] in your home?---(No Audible Reply)

Was there a shoebox for example for receipts?---Ah, in her bag, you know, there's a shoebox.

Not a shoebox but a bag. Is that right?---Yeah, like, the recent ones would be in her, in her bag.

20 She kept all - - -?---She's - - -

- - - the receipts in her handbag, didn't she?---She kept everything, you know.

Her bag was full of receipts, wasn't it?---Yes.

Her bag was also full of your receipts, wasn't it?---(No Audible Reply)

30 Wasn't it?---If we, if we were together and we bought something, yes, everything.

You would give her your credit card receipts. Correct?---She would, you know, I would carry the item and she would keep the receipts, yeah.

And what about Richard and Charlie's credit card receipts, do you know if they were in the bag as well?---Not at all, I don't know.

Did you know that she had been reimbursed for some of your credit card receipts?---Some, did I know?

40 Yes?---No, not all.

Did you ever contribute to household expenses when you first moved in? ---Um - - -

You said you didn't pay any bills?---No, I, I told her that I'll be responsible for outside and I will do a renovation, like a landscaping, so, and that took me a whole year, you know, to do ah, you know, with a lot of effort and,

you know, cost, and I was going to move to the backyard and start working in the backyard.

Where did you get the troughs from that are in the front yard?---Where?

The Sansevieria troughs?---(No Audible Reply)

Those big troughs, the rectangular troughs in the front yard?---Ah, she got them.

10

She got them for you?---Yes.

You didn't purchase them, did you?---No.

The fountain, what about the fountain?---No, I purchased the fountain.

You purchased the fountain. Are you sure about that, Mr Hammo?---No, I'm not sure about that.

20

No, you're not, are you, because she did, didn't she?---Possibly, yeah. And I, I didn't ah, like the fountain and I didn't like - - -

I'm not asking you about whether you liked the fountain?--- - - - it to be front, in the front so - - -

I'm not asking you about liking the fountain?---So yeah, I'm just - - -

I'm asking you about the money- - -?--- - - - reflecting.

30

- - - purchasing the fountain?---Yeah.

Understood?---Yes.

All right. That's it. Did you pay for some of the Mercedes that you bought, the B200?---I wanted to pay for all of it and ah - - -

You paid the deposit, didn't you, of \$2,000?---And, and then the ah, what I had, which was another 15,000.

40

You transferred that some days later, didn't you?---Yes.

The car was worth 35,000, wasn't it?---Yeah, 34 or 35.

The remainder comes to \$18,000?---Yeah.

Correct?---Yes.

And you saw Ms Sharobeem present a cheque to the dealership, didn't you, on the day it was picked up?---I ask her to get a bank cheque, yes.

The question is, did you see her present a cheque to the dealership when you picked it up?---Yes.

Did you see what sort of cheque it was?---No.

10 Had you ever seen Ms Sharobeem present a cheque to anyone in the time you'd known her since 1999?---A cheque?

A cheque?---Or a bank cheque?

Any sort of cheque?---I saw her, since 1999?

Apart from the Mercedes, had you ever seen her present a cheque?
---Ah, she bought, you know, when she was buying cars ah, for, for the organisation and, and for her use she did – I was with her when she bought a few cars.

20

Do you understand her to have a personal chequebook?---Possibly, I'm not, I can't, I can't recall, you know, seeing, you know, everybody has a, has a chequebook, yeah.

Well, I don't know about that. I'm not sure that's correct, Mr Hammo?
---Well, my father does, I do, so - - -

Well, that's not everyone, is it?--- - - - they give it.

30 Okay?---Yeah. Everyone who has an account.

The question is, did you see her with a personal chequebook?---Possibly, possibly.

Did you ever see her present a personal cheque from her personal account?
---(No Audible Reply)

I'm not ask you if it's possible, I'm asking if you have a recollection - - -?
---Yeah.

40

- - - of her presenting a cheque from her personal account?---If you give me a day or two to think about, you know, occasions, I can't, yeah, but I can't imagine - - -

But there's nothing specific in your - - -?---I'm a visual person.

Yes?---I'm trying to remember.

And nothing's coming to mind, is it?---No.

All right. You said in November last year, and I again seek leave to refer to this evidence.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

VARIATION OF SUPPRESSION ORDER

10

MR RAJALINGAM: Thank you, Commissioner. That you paid for Ms Sharobeeem's engagement ring.---Yes.

And that was worth \$38,000, wasn't it?---No, no. It was 13.

13?---Yes.

I asked if you had a receipt for the purchase. Did you have a receipt?---Yes.
20

Did you find the receipt?---Ah - - -

Because I asked you to look for it.---I can't - - -

Did you look for it?---I would have the receipt, yes.

I asked you to look for it. Did you look for it? Do you understand? You're not answering my question.---I did look for it. I'm not sure, you know, this is about six months ago. You're asking me if I found it where I put it - - -
30

You can remember where your honeymoon was in 1984 or something. ---Yes.

I'm asking you if after this very important hearing in November, when I asked you to look for a receipt and you said, yeah, you would look for it, I'm asking if you looked for it and you're telling me you can't remember if you looked for it or not. Is that, you're being genuine?---It's not only a receipt. It's, you know, several - - -

40 I asked you about the receipt.---There are several receipts because I was paying in instalments.

Well, did you find those receipts?---I can give you the, the shop and the shopkeeper's name and, yeah.

Germani Jewellers, was it?---Yes.

You just said you couldn't give me the name.---They're closed. They're closed.

Who paid for the engagement ring?---You just asked me that question.

Well, who paid for the engagement ring?---I did.

How did you pay for it?---In instalments.

10 How? Cash, credit card or cheque?---Cash, in cash.

During the execution of the search warrant at the [REDACTED] home, a valuation certificate was found in relation to that engagement ring. You accept that, don't you?---Okay.

It was dated, the valuation was dated for 20 November, 2013. And I'll just show you, the investigator will show you a couple of pictures.---20 November. Okay.

20 20 November, 2013 was the valuation certificate.---And the receipts? Did you find the receipts?

No, we don't – hence why I'm asking you, Mr Hammo, where the receipt is. And you don't have it, do you?---I, I have it. I have pieces of, you know, (not transcribable) from Germani, and on it is the deductions of the payments, the instalments I was paying. I can remember that.

Can you – do you know where it is at home?---I, I made a friendship with the, with the owner, yeah.

30

Do you know where this paper you're referring to is?---It used to be in my bag.

Where did it go from there?---I took it out, you know, after the wedding and after everything, you know. I will look for it but it hasn't come, you know, it hasn't popped up, you know, wherever I put my things. It might be in her things.

Pardon me, Commissioner. Commissioner, that's the evidence.

40

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Mr Chhabra, any questions.

MR CHHABRA: Nothing arising.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Is there any reason that Mr Hammo can't be excused?

MR RAJALINGAM: No, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Hammo. You're excused if you'd like to go.

THE WITNESS EXCUSED

[10.54am]

10 MR CHHABRA: Perhaps just prior to the next witness being called, yesterday Counsel Assisting asked questions of Mr Richard Sharobeem. Part of his answers included that he had taken digital photographs and production was called for the same. I can provide that now to Counsel Assisting in the form of a hard drive.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MR RAJALINGAM: I thank my friend.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Rajalingam.

MR RAJALINGAM: I recall Ms Sharobeem.

MR CHHABRA: She's just sitting outside. She's being brought in.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. I'll make another order in respect of Ms Sharobeem's evidence. Pursuant to section 38 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act, I declare all answers given by the witness and all documents and things produced by this witness during the course of the witness's evidence at this public inquiry are to be regarded as having been given or produced on objection and there is no need for the witness to make objection in respect of any particular answer given or document or thing produced.

40 **PURSUANT TO SECTION 38 OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION ACT, I DECLARE ALL ANSWERS GIVEN BY THE WITNESS AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND THINGS PRODUCED BY THIS WITNESS DURING THE COURSE OF THE WITNESS'S EVIDENCE AT THIS PUBLIC INQUIRY ARE TO BE REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN GIVEN OR PRODUCED ON OBJECTION AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE WITNESS TO MAKE OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF ANY PARTICULAR ANSWER GIVEN OR DOCUMENT OR THING PRODUCED.**

THE COMMISSIONER: That gives you that protection again, Ms Sharobeem.

MS SHAROBEEM: Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: And will you take an affirmation?

MS SHAROBEEM: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Yes, Mr Rajalingam.

MR RAJALINGAM: Thank you, Commissioner. Ms Sharobeem, I'm going to ask you some questions about your \$1,500 fortnightly payments that were made to you in relation to work that you purportedly did for NESH. Do you understand that?---Yes.

10

Can I first show you volume 20, page 340. I'm going to show you consecutive payments of \$1,500 to our account. Do you understand that? ---Yes.

Do you accept that what's in front of you is a \$1,500 transfer to your account on 8 January - - -?---Yes.

- - - 2014, do you agree?---Yes, I can see that.

20

Can you speak up a bit.---Just one second. Yes, I can see that.

The next page is the invoice that was, that was submitted in support of that payment. Do you accept that?---Yes, I can see that.

Do you accept that it's your handwriting?---Yes.

Page 342 and I'm at allegation brief 20, page 342. 23 January, 2014 transfer to your account of 1,500 at approximately 6.00pm. Accepted?---I can see that.

30

Your writing at the bottom, fortnightly reimbursement from NESH?---Yes.

Your handwriting?---Yes.

The next page. 18 February some month later, shy of a month, another \$1,500 to your account. Correct?---Yes.

The next page. An invoice in support of that transfer is in your handwriting isn't it?---Yes.

40

The next page, 345. 11 March, 2014 another \$1,500 payment to your account. Correct?---Yes.

That was at 9.58am. The next page. Two minutes later another \$1,500 payment to your account. Correct?---Two minutes later?

Two minutes. So go back a page. Is that right? Am I doing that right? I think that's right. 345 is 11 March, 2014 9.58am.---Yes.

346, page 346. 11 March, 2014 10.00am. 3,000 the same morning and the invoice in support of that is at page 347. Do you see that?---I can see that.

If you can't it's on the screen, 347. 347. There we go. Is that the invoice submitted in support of those two payments?---Yes, I can see that.

And it's in your handwriting isn't it?---Yes.

10 And your squiggle is there as well isn't it?---Yes.

The next page, 348. 19 March, 2014 at 3.49pm \$1,500 to your account. Correct?---Yes.

The next page. The invoice submitted in support of that. Whose handwriting is that?---I don't know.

The next page, 350. 1 April, 2014 at 10.31am another transfer of 1,500 to your account. Correct?---I can see that.

20

The next page. Is that an invoice submitted in support of that payment for 1,500?---That's not my handwriting from top to bottom.

Page 352. 15 April, 2014. It's a fortnight later. Another payment to you for 1,500, correct?---I can see that.

And again, 353, an invoice submitted in support of your transfer to your account. But that's not your handwriting, is it?---No, not the slightest.

30 Page 354. 29 April, 2014. A transfer of 1,500 to your account.---I can see that.

And the next page, the final one, is the invoice of it in support. That's not in your handwriting, is it?---No.

40 Why were you receiving \$1,500 fortnightly payments from IWHS which were described as repayments from NESH, for NESH?---As I explained before, the management committee, when they decided to amalgamate and create a new consortium to support NESH and save NESH from closure, they created that new entity and they appointed me as a CEO for the new entity. And they put a provision in a meeting, documented, that Eman will receive 750 a week to continue supporting the new entity, as a CEO of it, and that was managed by the auditor and the bookkeeper.

Ms Sharobeem, Ms Lai gave evidence to this inquiry and she said the following at transcript page 1141, at the top of the page - - -?---Sorry, who said that? I'm sorry, I didn't hear the name.

Ms Lai, I apologise.---Ms Lai. Okay.

She said the following. Let me read it to you first.---Sure.

I'm going to ask you to respond to it. My question to her was "Did the board ever authorise \$1,500 fortnightly payments to Ms Sharobeem's account in addition to a salary for her work?" She said, "What?" I said, "For the consortium between IWHS and NESH." She said, "No, this is the first, like, I, I didn't know. We wouldn't have authorised that because she was supposed to be, you know, just taking the responsibility until we found the new coordinator." So I asked her, "So she wasn't meant to be paid through NESH for her work?" And she said, "No, I'm surprised. I'm sorry, I mean, like, I really don't know she was getting paid, yeah." And then I said, "Well, there's no need to apologise, Ms Lai." And she said, "Ah hmm." I said, "Ms Watton gave some evidence at this inquiry," and she said, "Ah hmm." And I said, "She seemed to think that there might have been a discussion about a \$1,500 payment. Do you recall one?" Ms Lai said, "I don't. I definitely, if there was a payment, I mean, I'm sure I would have said no, but, mmm." I asked her a question, the next question was, okay, she said, "So I don't know if Ms Watton has, like, you know, did she definitely recall that?" And I said, "No, it's something that she was, that she was completely clear, it's not something that she was completely clear about." And she said, "Yeah, because I, I really, if that, if that had been brought up at a board meeting, I'm sure I would have remembered and I would have voted no. You're not allowed to have a wage for NESH and IWHS because we're already paying you 80,000 and that's more than enough, you know?" What do you say about that?---Audrey and the management committee have been through a lot, more than anyone can imagine, in the last two years. I understand that she might be a bit confused while sitting in this chair and being subjected to all this trauma. Meanwhile we have a documented meeting where not Audrey only was there, but Audrey and I believe Julie and there was another person from NESH as well by the name of Dusanka. And they all agreed on that and it wasn't my proposal at all. That minutes meeting is actually in with ICAC and there is also the – that minutes went to the auditor, and the bookkeeper and the management committee were, were fully aware. So if Audrey was confused about that, I cannot really blame her. We've been through a lot.

Ms Sharobeem, I say to you in fairness that the Commission does not have any minutes referring to your payment of \$1,500, but I'm going to take you to a document, firstly volume 19, page 299. Did you refer to this payment as the Community Development Partnership?---I can't right now recall what exactly it's called.

Well, can I show you the bottom of this letter. Part 4 relates to 10 by \$1,500 monthly payments to IWHS for costs relating to the partnership and reimbursed for an invoice with two facilitators only. Do you see that? ---Yes, I can see that.

Go to the next page. In fairness you can read the rest of it if you like. I'll show you volume 20, page 299. Is that your email to Ms Vo of Boyd & Associates explaining what the payment was for, the \$1,500 fortnightly payments which here you refer to as \$750 per week?---In that email dated in the December 13 there is also Nada and Julie and Audrey - - -

No, no. I'm asking you - - -?--- - - - included - - -

10 - - - if the email that you're writing there - - -?---Yeah. Mmm.

- - - relates to the \$1,500 fortnightly payments?---That's - I'm reading it and I'm just reading from the top that it was addressed from me to Amy and the board and it is written here there is the 750, yes.

You don't refer there to the cost of two facilitators do you?---No, that was about that meeting and that allocation of money which you just referred and talked to and Audrey denied. Here is Audrey as well mentioned here.

20 You didn't tell FACS that they were payments to you because that wouldn't have - that would have been in appropriate wouldn't it?---I'm sorry, what do you mean by that?

You didn't want FACS to know that you were receiving additional \$1,500 payments because that would have been inappropriate wouldn't it?---Where is FACS coming in this? I'm not sure.

30 Let me show you volume 19, page 299. This letter signed off by Ms Lai at section 4, volume 19, 299. Volume 19, page 299. Do you see what's contained at section 4?---That's the letter as you said Audrey wrote and the information here is not talking about the 1,500. The community development part of the relation between NESH and IWHS established since Mira Mitrovic was the manager and we were delivering programs for women on the premises of IWHS for NESH and that continued all the way by providing facilitators and child care workers to provide women who are residents at NESH houses with programs and activities. That didn't stop. That's what I refer to community development here.

40 Were you in contact with an officer from FACS?---FACS in particular Elizabeth Gallagher was the person who was talking to me most of the time - - -

Did you - - -?--- - - - as the person from NESH

Did you ever raise with her the fact that you were receiving additional payments from NESH, \$1,500 per fortnight?---Yes. Yes, I believe Elizabeth Gallagher called me to tell me that there was an anonymous letter sent to ICAC about NESH - - -

No, the question is not about an anonymous letter. Ms Sharobeem?---
- - - and I replied to her about that and she asked me that – she told me that ICAC referred that complaint back to FACS and told them that it's not their jurisdiction and that FACS to look after this matter and at that time Elizabeth asked me if – what's happening with NESH and I actually told her about the amalgamation and the new consortium and I also told her that I am drained and exhausted and I'm resigning and at that event I actually had a very long conversation with her on that sense. She can be asked on that.

10

You didn't say in your answer that you specifically raised the \$1,500 payment with Ms Gallagher.---I replied to that and I said that.

What did you say? I didn't hear it.---I actually said to the Commission that I discussed that and I told her that we initiated the new consortium and the management put this amount of 1,500 for a short time. It was a very short time. And also I would like to point out that NESH didn't only have money from FACS. We had money saved from rent which is more than 400,000 and the money for this new entity was supposed to come from that rent money not from FACS money. And that money is still there as a term deposit so it's not FACS money which paid me.

20

I understand you paid a deposit for the electric gate installed at [REDACTED] using your personal credit card in early 2015. Is that correct?---Whatever the document says.

Do you recall paying a deposit on your personal credit card for the electric gate that was installed at [REDACTED] I recall that during the inquiry I actually looked up that, maybe a month ago I looked up the details for the gate and I actually contacted my lawyer because at that time, only a month ago, I discovered that the gate was paid directly from IWHS and I even sent to the gate people, company, confirmation of the payment from IWHS and that wasn't even slightly a mistake that was an absolute drained of a human being made a very obvious and silly mistake of using the wrong account, to the extent that I wasn't even trying to hide it but I'm sending actually the confirmation out in an email. So I discovered that a month ago, called my lawyer directly and told him about that and he said there will be a time to confirm that to the Commissioner. That's the time.

30

40 I'll show you volume 4, page 116. Is that an email from Fencing & Gate Commercial, or Fencing & Gate Comm, to be precise – is that an email from Fencing & Gate Comm to you on 28 May, 2015, at 1.37pm, attaching an invoice from an installer for the electric gate?---This is the email, Commissioner, I'm referring to and I just mentioned that it was sent by human mistake, very strong human mistake from IWHS account to the gate and I'm talking about it clearly here.

This email is sent to your Hotmail address, isn't it?---The Hotmail address was used for work, as indicated in other emails.

You had a work email address as well, didn't you?---I had three emails, one for the website of Immigrant Women's Health, one from the Health Department and the Hotmail. From the beginning of my employment my Hotmail was the one used because I was able to take it outside the office and continue working, even if I'm outside.

- 10 Page 117 of volume 4, and this is of the statement brief. Is that an email from you to – sorry, that's the invoice, isn't it, for 308 for the installer, David?---Yes, yes.

Okay. Page 114 of volume 4 of the statements. Is that an email from you to FGC at 3.37pm attaching a receipt of payment?---This is the email I'm just referring to. Excuse me, can I have a tissue?

Sorry, what are you after?---I just want a tissue, please.

- 20 Yeah, sure?---I'm sorry. Thank you, I'm sorry. Sorry about it. It's fine. Thank you.

Is that an email from you to FGC at 3.37pm, exactly two hours after you got the invoice, attaching receipt of payment?---This is the email I'm referring to.

- 30 The receipt records a transfer at 3.27pm, doesn't it, for \$308?---Yes, that's the email I'm referring to, that the payment was made by human error and a mistake from IWHS account and I'm here sending it out. It doesn't show that I'm hiding anything but it's a very silly human mistake.

10 minutes prior to sending the email confirming payment, you had paid, hadn't you, yourself the \$308 using the IWHS website, St George website? ---That's when I made the mistake by using the account of the organisation instead of mine.

You're not suggesting that Neth did this transfer, are you?---No, no, no. That's – I just said that clearly. No.

- 40 I'm going to show you volume 4, page 119. Is that an email from – was the – just before we get there, the electric gate was installed the day after the installation invoice was paid, wasn't it? On 29 May or thereabouts? ---Whatever the document indicate the time.

But some time thereafter, after the installation invoice was paid - - -?---Yes.

- - - the gate was installed, wasn't it? In June do you receive here the invoice from Fencing & Gate Com?---In June - - -

4 June at 4.59pm.---Yeah.

You receive the invoice, don't you?---Yeah, whatever the document indicate, yes.

That's right, isn't it?---It's in front of you.

10 Does the document also attach the invoice from FGC for the electric gate?
Do you see that? Go to the next page. Is that the invoice?---Um - - -

And I wonder if the witness can be shown volume 4, page 120 of the statement brief, the unredacted copy. Reimbursements volume 4, allegation brief. I'll give you, I'll give you the, Ms Sharobeem, I'll ask you to look at the unredacted copy of this document that you seem to have received in the middle of June. That's page 4, volume 4 of the reimbursements, page 120. That was the invoice you received from Fence & Gate Com, wasn't it?
---Yes, it's the same as this one.

20 Yes, and it was addressed to you, wasn't it?---Yes.

It's got your home address at [REDACTED] doesn't it?---Yes.

It's dated 29 May, 2015, correct?---Yes.

And you accept that the gate was installed at [REDACTED] Yes.

30 Page 118 of volume 4 of the reimbursements. So put that down. Keep that with you, Ms Sharobeem. Is that an email from you to Fence Gate Com on 9 June at 6.37pm? Oh, sorry, 10 June, sorry. Withdraw that. Page 118. That's an email on 10 June at 6.37pm. An hour and a half, sorry, some six days after you receive, five days after you receive the invoice. You say full amount was just paid. Do you accept that?---Yes.

Was it the case that you made an internet transfer on 9 June, 2015 at 6.33pm in the evening for 3,878 for payment of your electric gate at [REDACTED]
---It is mentioned in the other page if you would like to show it.

40 I'll show you volume 22, page 69. Pardon me, Commissioner.
Commissioner, I wonder if that's a convenient time for a quick break. I need to find the page reference for a document. Should have done that before but it's 20 past 11.00.

THE COMMISSIONER: That's all right. We'll take the morning tea adjournment, then.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

[11.21am]

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Rajalingam.

MR RAJALINGAM: Thank you for the time, Commissioner.

Ms Sharobeem, I'm going to show you a copy of your bank statement, volume 2 of the bank statements at page 435. Sorry, I'm going to show you the IWHS St George bank statement for the Immigrant Women's Health Service. Bank statements volume 2, page 435. Do you see there, there is a transaction on 9 June, and you'll see at the top right-hand corner it's got the year, 2015, there's a transaction there for the subject fencing, for \$3,878, a debit to the account. Do you see that?---Yes.

You processed that transaction, didn't you?---Yes, I just mentioned that, I just said that it was done by mistake, yes.

I'm going to show you another document, volume 4, page 121, volume 4 of the allegation brief. Did you create this invoice, Ms Sharobeem?---No.

20

Did you provide this invoice to the IWHS bookkeeper?---No, we don't have a fence in IWHS.

Do you agree that this invoice is identical to the one I showed you previously addressed to you at your [REDACTED] home?---This is my invoice and I paid it by mistake.

The question is, do you agree that the document I'm showing you is identical to the one I showed you that was addressed to your [REDACTED] home, but with changed details relating to the Immigrant Women's Health Service?---This is a - - -

30

It's the same document, isn't it?---No, it's, it's a fake invoice.

Yes. Ms Sharobeem, can I show you the invoice you received from FGC again?---I have it here.

Page 4 – volume 4, page 119. Do you see that one?---(No Audible Reply)

It's the same invoice, isn't it, except the details are different? Can you answer that question?---Answer what? What you showed me is a fake invoice.

40

The question is, it's the same invoice with different addressee details, isn't it?---What?

THE COMMISSIONER: He's asking you do you agree that the two invoices are the same except for the address?---There's no even address in the fake invoice he showed me, it's only the organisation name.

Ah hmm?---There's not even address.

MR RAJALINGAM: Ms Sharobeem, you received the invoice from FGC for your personal home electric gate, didn't you?---And I paid by mistake from Immigrant Women's Health.

10

You were the one that had access to the original invoice. Isn't that right? ---What do you mean have access, it's my invoice, it's on my desk.

You were given the invoice. It was sent to your email, wasn't it?---It's on my desk, it was on my desk.

You were the one that had it, didn't you?---It was on my desk.

You didn't give it to anyone else, did you?---No.

20

You received a, a payment for this gate which was related to your home. Isn't that right?---No, it's not. I shouldn't. Why? How?

You've – Ms Sharobeem, you've processed the transfers in this case directly from IWHS funds to Fencing & Gate Commercial. Don't you agree with that?---Agree with what? I just said that I made a mistake by sending from the organisation money.

30

When did you realise you had made a mistake about the Fencing & Gate Commercial payment?---I just realised that a month ago and I called Mina directly and I told her this is what I discovered when I – I actually called the company and asked them for – yeah, let me, let me just rephrase that. The issue about the gate has been coming up a lot and I kept wondering what they are talking about because we don't have a gate at Immigrant Women's Health. We used to have a gate and it was a hazard for cars driving in so we took off the gate fully and then when all this inquiry came about and they kept talking about gate I kept wondering what gate they are talking about. And then during this time between the inquiry and one morning I actually got my son to call the company and left a message asking for a copy of the invoice and when they didn't reply straightaway my other son said to me

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mum, try to look under fencing or gate in your emails. So we kept looking in my previous emails and we found the trace of emails where I wrongly sent the payment from Immigrant Women's Health money and I called Mina straightaway and I told him look, I found this discovery now. This is a mistake I've made. That's all my information about this and as soon as I discovered it a month ago I called my lawyer. But this what I saw right now I never saw before. This, this is obvious fake and not only fake but somebody is trying to show that it's fake because if the person is intending

to make it as a good fake at least they will use the same font or they write details but this is just the organisation name in different font even. It's just – I hope I'm making sense because this is all not making sense.

THE COMMISSIONER: I think what's being put to you is that you faked the receipt in order to get the justification for the Women's Service paying for it. What do you want to say to that?---Absolutely no.

Okay. Thank you.---No.

10

MR RAJALINGAM: I suggest to you, Ms Sharobeem, that your evidence about you discovering that this was a mistake only a month ago is false. What do you say about that?---There is a witness about that and - - -

You – yeah.--- - - - there is also a witness about the whole thing when it happened. No, it's not false.

Ms Sharobeem - - -?---Accusing me it's false on its own is wrong.

20

Ms Sharobeem, you repaid this amount to the IWHS in September, 2015 when the auditor raised questions about it didn't you?---At that particular time, sir, the auditor bullied us to the extreme and bullied the poor management committee that at that time when I was even under not only stress but nervous breakdown everything he said I was ready to accept just to get rid of him and his bullying because we were all bruised. So whatever he said Eman paid, Eman paid, full stop.

30

Ms Sharobeem, when the auditor raised questions about the installation of the electric gate at your home, the only response you provided in the table of responses, page – volume 4, page 127 – I don't need it to be brought up – you – the reply to the auditor here, Ms Sharobeem, have a look at me. ---Ah hmm.

“The amount paid to this company was reimbursed to IWHS.” That was the response to the auditor. Would you accept that?---Because the auditor - - -

Would you accept that that was the response to the auditor provided - - -? ---I just answered that, sir.

40

- - - by IWHS, yes or no?---I just said that whatever he say jump I jumped just to finish with him and his bullying.

THE COMMISSIONER: I think what's being put to you is something slightly different.---All right.

That your response to the auditor was – what was it?

MR RAJALINGAM: The response was, “The amount paid to this company was reimbursed to IWHS”, and nothing more.---Yeah.

THE COMMISSIONER: So you told the auditor it had been reimbursed? ---Yeah, when he told me what is this about the gate, this amount was paid to you and I said all right, how much and I reimbursed it. That’s what I wrote.

10 But have you reimbursed it again?---Reimbursed – sorry?

Have you paid it – repaid it twice?---I paid it twice.

I mean, you've just been telling us that you've a month ago realised and you repaid the amount.---I realised what happened. No, sorry, because I'm nervous I'm, I'm saying that. Let me just say it quietly. I did not reimburse it last month. I discovered what happened, actually, last month.

20 Oh, I see.---Sorry, sir. It’s, it’s my hyper, and of course you understand what I've been going through. I discovered what happened. My mistake about sending the money or paying the money from Immigrant Women's Health account directly last month. But when in '15 the auditor said, “Eman, this amount was paid wrongly,” I said, “How much?” and I paid it - - -

And you paid it.--- - - - that time.

Okay. Thank you.

30 MR RAJALINGAM: Ms Sharobeem, in late 2015 you gave no explanation to the auditor of the payment by you being a mistake, did you?---No, of course it was - - -

You didn't - - -?--- - - - given verbally. That’s why the answer is very short in the documents and - - -

40 You didn't, yeah, you didn't tell the auditor, did you, that you yourself had transferred money from the IWHS account to Fencing & Gate Commercial, did you?---Sir, I just discovered that last month. In 2015 I didn't understand how this happened. But at that time everything he said, “Eman, that was double paid or reimbursed twice,” I said, “All right. How much?” And I paid it straightaway.

On 28 May, 2015, at 1.37pm, you received the invoice for the installer and you paid it using IWHS funds two hours later. There was no mistake there, was there, Ms Sharobeem?---I just responded to that.

That wasn’t a mistake.---I, I just - - -

How could that be a mistake?---I just responded to that.

And is it simply a coincidence that in June of 2015 again you receive an invoice from Fencing & Gate Commercial and five days later you use IWHS funds to pay for your home electric gate? Is that what you're suggesting to the Commission?---What coincidence? I just said that I discovered the mistake last month. I don't understand.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: What you're being asked about is that there were two payments, and there was first one payment from IWHS account and then subsequently there was another payment from the IWHS account. So you're simply being asked is that just a coincidence that you made the same mistake twice?---How can I make the same mistake twice? The payment was made wrongly from IWHS - - -

Twice. Twice.---Why? It's one gate. How it's twice?

20 MR RAJALINGAM: Well, let me explain this. On 28 May, 2015 - - -? ---Yeah.

- - - you received the invoice for the installer for \$308, and within two hours you paid it yourself using the St George Bank online IWHS website. Do you understand that?---Do you have the document? I need to see it to understand.

I'll take you to page 116 of volume 4. 28 May, 2015. 1.37pm. The invoice is attached to you in an email. Do you agree with that?---Yes, attached to me as an email.

30 Yes. Page 114.---Oh, there is attachment here, yes. Yeah.

Sorry, just go to the next – go to page 117. That's the invoice for \$308. Do you understand that?---Yes.

My suggestion to you is that within two hours of you receiving that invoice in your email, you used the St George IWHS banking website to pay for that invoice.---I can't remember this.

40 Go back a page.---I, I remember, I remember that I used it wrongly - - -

Yeah.--- - - - on that email I discovered a month ago. Can you show me any other - - -

Page 114. Two hours later you're attaching the receipt of payment.---That's the one. That's the one I'm referring to.

Yes. That's two hours after you received the invoice. I'm suggesting that you, yourself, Ms Sharobeem, used IWHS funds to pay for your own

personal electric gate.---This is the one I just said, sir, that it's my mistake. I paid it.

THE COMMISSIONER: No, but we're dealing with – the point that's being made to you is that there's the \$308 there and then later on there's an amount of \$3,000-something.---Can you show me the email for that?

10 MR RAJALINGAM: Yes, I'll show you that. Page 119. On 4 June, 2015 at 5.00pm, you received the remainder owing on the electric gate installed at your home. Do you understand that? That's the invoice attached to that email.---This is the one I paid wrongly by IWHS. I just said that.

No, no, no?---Where the other one, this is the 308.

Ms, Ms Sharobeem, listen?---Okay.

Listen. Attached to this email in June, not May, this is June - - -?---Right.

20 - - - a month later or two weeks later, attached to this email is the following document. Next page. That is the full invoice for the remainder owing to Fencing & Gate Commercial for the electric gate, 3,878. Do you understand that?---Can you show me the email associated with that?

Yeah, sure. Go back a page. 4 June, 2015, Sam from Fencing & Gate Commercial writes, "Hi, Eman, please see the attached fencing invoice. Have a great day." Do you understand?---Yes, I can see that.

30 So 5 o'clock on 4 June, you have the invoice in your email account?
---Right.

Do you accept that?---Ah, I definitely printed because I need to see. Anyway, so what's your question, what, did I reply back to him and send him - - -

Page 118 now, five days later after you receive the invoice, Ms Sharobeem - - -?---Yes

40 - - - you reply at 6.37pm saying, "Hi, Sam, full amount was just paid, thanks, Eman." Do you understand?---I can read that.

Now I'll show you the IWHS bank account statements, bank statements volume 2, page 435. This is the transfer that you made or you agreed you made on 9 June, 2015 for the remainder owing for the fence installed at your [REDACTED] home. Do you see the figure for 3,878?---I didn't do this payment from IWHS.

You said in evidence that you did do this payment - - -?---I remember paying from IWHS the one I saw and told my lawyer about it.

You - - -?---I can't remember I paid this from IWHS.

You created - - -?---And I did not create this fake invoice.

10 You - - -?---I do not create fake invoices. I don't need to create fake invoices. This is, this is a fence, this is not a table people can move, this is a fence installed. Immigrant Women's Health office in Fairfield does not have a fence. No officer, no bookkeeper, no one can see a fencing invoice and agree with it, or even pay it. There's no way. And there's no address associated with it as well.

THE COMMISSIONER: What's being put to you is that it's understood that you might have made a mistake once by using IWHS funds to pay for part of the gate installation, but you've made the same mistake twice?
---I don't think I paid from IWHS account.

Okay?---I can't, I can't recall that.

20 Thank you?---It's my own fence.

MR RAJALINGAM: Ms - - -?---And I do not create fake invoices. I do not create invoices. I don't have the ability to create invoices, and how can a person put - anyway.

The auditor asked you to write a letter to Fencing & Gate Commercial to confirm the installation address. Do you remember that?---The auditor asked what?

30 The auditor asked to send a letter to Fencing & Gate Commercial to confirm the installation address of the gate, didn't he?---Um - - -

Audit confirmation letter?---What? So what, I should write to them?

He asked you to, didn't he?---I really don't know what's that question means.

40 And you never sent that letter to Fencing & Gate Commercial, did you?
---I recall the auditor asking at that time in 2015 about the fencing and my respond was, what fencing, we never had a fence, electric fence installed in IWHS, and I actually asked him about it and he said that it is electric fence and I said the only electric fence we had is at my address and how much was the reimbursement and I paid it in full. That's even before he issued his audit. That's all what I remember.

He asked you to send a letter to Fencing & Gate Commercial confirming where the gate had been installed, didn't he?---I can't remember the details more than what I just said.

But you don't have any specific recollection of actually sending that letter, do you?---I can't remember anything more than what I just said.

Okay. Ms Sharobeem, the Commission holds evidence that between July 2009 and January 2015 you spent \$3,703.45 at IKEA using credit cards in the name of your partner, Charlie Sharobeem, and your own personal credit card, and for which you were reimbursed in full by IWHS. Can you say anything in response to that?---We bought items for IWHS from IKEA.

10

What were they?---Some of those items were tables, cabinets, TV cabinet, and I asked Charlie and Richard to come and help install it and they did. IKEA requires installing and we didn't have the manpower.

Ms Sharobeem, on the last occasion in June when you were here at the Commission, I took you to a number of infringement notices for which you had submitted for reimbursement from IWHS. Do you recall that?---Yes.

20

There were seven of those traffic infringement notices that I showed you and I gave you a total at that stage of about 35,000. Seven of those infringement notices totalled 7,553 in the 2014/2015 financial year. But I need to explain to you that because IWHS didn't nominate a driver, IWHS incurred an additional 22,278 which was paid to the SDRO. Why was there an issue with nominating drivers who had received, who had been responsible for these traffic infringement notices using IWHS cars? Was there a problem?---During this month I discovered many of the letters received to IWHS were in my even old bags unopened. Some of them, one of them actually was an infringement notice. The system was at IWHS that all the mail and even my personal mail received to the organisation PO box or physical address, that the admin people stamp it with the date and leave it on my desk. I was overwhelmed with the amount of work I had to do and it's obvious now to the Commissioner the size of work I was doing. And many of those letters were not opened, to the extent that after I even went into sick leave after my nervous breakdown episode in, in 2015, the management committee were not opening the mail as well, and one of those infringement notice also accumulated extra interest and the management committee contacted me and I said I will pay it and they said, "No, it's not your fault," and they paid it. So it was the habit of leaving things sometimes accumulating, the letters in particular. The only thing was important and the bookkeeper had authority to do is to open the letter which is coming from St George to process work, but the other letters were left. I know that it's bad management. I know that it was left only for me, but I was the only full-time staff for an organisation serving Australia-wide.

30

40

Ms Sharobeem, why did you have your tax agent's invoices reimbursed to you by the IWHS?---What taxation invoices?

George Harris & Associates, volume 4, page 171. All of your tax agent's bills, the ones I'm going to show you - - - ?---Yeah.

- - - were all reimbursed to your account.---The tax agent, I didn't pay to him directly. He's deducting always his money from the return, the refund from the tax. What bills?

So have a look at these invoices, next page, all the way to 176. Pardon me, Commissioner. Do you see that?---Yes.

10

I'm suggesting to you, when you go to 176, all those invoices were reimbursed to your personal account.---Why it's reimbursed to my personal account?

Did you submit your tax agent's bills for reimbursement to the bookkeeper at IWHS?---Oh, sir, we already went through this.

20

No, we didn't.---But I'm going to repeat again for the sake of clarity that all my receipts were left on my desk and it was taken from my desk by whoever did that and reimbursed to me. There is no way anyone in their normal mind will do such a mistake. Even while I'm sick now I'm saying that. There is no-one would, would do such a mistake. And why would I do that? Why I didn't do it since I was employed or in even previous employment? Why would I do such a thing?

Ms Sharobeem, can you return page 120 of volume 4 of the allegation brief.---Thank you.

30

Pardon me, Commissioner. In terms of the Department of Health, Ms Sharobeem, were you responsible for reporting key performance indicators to them?---Yes.

Were you – I think you agreed on the last occasion that you were also responsible for settling the annual reports?---Collecting information and get it all together and trying to gather as much as I can and any staff have other input they always participate.

You were the boss of IWHS weren't you?---I was the manager.

40

And you settled the annual reports?---We don't use the word boss at all.

Well, the manager. Let's be clear then. You were the manager of IWHS weren't you?---I was. You have the documents.

You were responsible for the service weren't you?---I was responsible for a lot of things.

I'll show you volume 11, page 296. I only want you to agree if you completely understand my question. Okay?---I'll try.

In front of you is that on the screen a table of key performance indicators for the financial year 2015 to 2016 for three quarters?---Yes.

There is no fourth quarter because the IWHS wasn't running then was it?
---No, it was because I didn't do it because I was sick.

10 I'll now show you pages 297 and 298 and you'll agree that they are the remainder – the remaining pages of that report aren't they?---This is the new system. The South Western Sydney Area Health created to help us gather information and stats about our work.

I'll show you volume 11, page 288. Is that a table of key performance indicators for 2014 to 2015?---Yes.

20 And here are figures for all four quarters aren't there?---Yes, I can see it full.

And that's because the IWHS was running for all those four quarters wasn't it?---I believe we were working very, very hard, yes.

I'll show you volume 11, page 289. That's the second page of that report isn't it?---Okay.

30 And the next page – sorry, go back. There's only two pages. Ms Sharobeem, the Commission has prepared a table that summarises some of the information in relation to these two tables that I've shown you, okay. I'm going to show you that document. Pardon me. Ms Sharobeem, what I'm going to do is I'm going to give you a hard copy of those two tables for those two financial years that I just showed you, okay.---Thank you.

Yeah. So first I'm going to give you the 2015 to 2016 financial year which is a thicker bundle because the font is bigger and the 2014 to 2015 bundle just for your assistance.---Thank you.

40 Now, you don't have to look at that yet and you can if you want a minute to. Do you want a minute to have a look at that table that I've given you in hard copy, the two tables?---It will not mean anything unless you ask a question.

Okay. I'm giving it to you so you can confirm if you'd like the figures that are recorded in this table. Okay?---So to say that it's equal?

If you want?---Oh.

If you disagree with the accuracy of this table, the primary document is there in front of you?---Thank you.

Do you understand that?---Yeah, yeah, I understand what you said.

10 All right. Do you agree that the figures, if you look on the screen, if you look at the summary and only the summary on the screen now, and if you want to look at the other tables just let me know and we'll have a break, okay, and I won't ask you a question, but just look at the table. Would you agree the figures for total numbers of clients attending per year for the first quarter of 2014-2015 was nearly twice as much as the first quarter for 2015-2016?---Um - - -

2,500 times two is about 5,000, isn't it?---Um - - -

It's the first row I'm talking about, total number of clients attending per year?---Do you want me to respond and say I can see that it's double?

Yes?---Yeah, I can see it is double.

20 Would you agree that the number of clients attending the service for the second and third quarters of 2014-2015 are in very simple language, higher than the second and third quarters of 2015-2016?---I can see the numbers.

Do you agree that they're much higher?---The quarter one under C is the highest number as far as I understand.

The figures for the number of groups held at Fairfield for the first quarter, do you see that, the second row?---Women's groups Fairfield?

30 Yeah, number of Fairfield groups per year for 2015 to 2016 was 10? ---Yeah.

And for 2014-2015 it was 105, wasn't it?---No, I'm not sure if this is a mistake. I just said that - - -

40 Well, do you want to check that with what was actually submitted to the Department of Health in the tables that I've given you?---Well, you can check with the Department of Health and also you can reflect into the annual report, but this is the formula the department created to help us put the numbers and we were struggling to get this number right. I can't respond and say that there is 10 here and then the following quarter is 105 and that respond rightly, I think there is something wrong about this. I can't relate to what was written or how it's translated, I can't really respond to that at all.

Ms Sharobeem, I'm going to take you to the annual report for 2015, volume 12, page 170. Volume 12, page 170. Do you see – well, actually if you go back to page 168. I'm showing you the annual report for 2015, Ms Sharobeem?---That's fine.

And I'm going to ask the investigator to turn a page at a time to 170, and you will see that the numbers on page 170 relate to the 2015 financial year - - -?---Okay.

- - - which is 2014-2015?---All right.

Do you understand that?---Yeah.

10 Here is reported that 10,131 women attended the service at large?---Yeah.

And that's - is that the top number?---If it's written at large then it's at large.

Now I take you to volume 11, page 288. Why do you report under women's group Fairfield, first row, total number of clients attending per year, year to date figure of 18,393?---No, that's definitely wrong calculation or maybe we were just trying to get to work with this formula. I don't think that's relevant to anything. Again I will repeat that the work of Immigrant
20 Women's Health, which is my work initially, is known to everybody, documented, there is people can witness that more than the figures. As I said, as an NGO small or micro we were trying to move forward with, with softwares and with formulas and this is something the department created and we were trying to equal to the database respond to and put figures in it. So I can't really say right now what's this figure reflect to. At that time it was a dialogue between myself and Christina Pollachini responding to these figures and it was done. I can't really say more and much about it.

30 You intentionally inflated the figures for New South Wales Health didn't you in relation to the - - -?---Absolutely never.

- - - attendees of the - - -?---Oh.

- - - Immigrant Women's Health Service?---Never. No, no, no, no.

40 And did you - - -?---See you can try to tarnish my reputation. You can try to accuse me, abuse me, bully me, harass me, terrorise me but you cannot take away the fact that in my life I only raised two sons and worked for women migrants and refugees and helped and saved many, many life. You cannot take this away from me until the grave. You cannot and you will not do that.

You, you intentionally falsified figures to the Department of Health - - -? ---Disagree with you

- - - to raise the profile of the Immigrant - - -?---Disagree with you.

- - - Women's Health Service didn't you?---Disagree with you and will not accept what you say. Disagree with you. My work is known. My work is shown. The lives I've saved. People can come from different directions and they come now to say how much I did and put my life out there and, and sacrificed a lot, a lot of my youth and years to save women and girls. Do not come now, sir, and try to take that away from me. You have no right. You have not right.

10 You intentionally falsified the figures to raise your own profile didn't you?
---Never.

You - - -?---I did not want to raise my own profile. I was pushed to come out and talk about my childhood and what happened to me as a victim of, of forced marriage, as a victim of, of, of female genital mutilation, as a victim to come out and help Australian women and girls and I did and I cannot regret that because many lives were saved. Do not take that away from me. Figures, figures are shown and known to everybody.

20 You falsely reported to New South Wales Health that there was an on-sight mental health worker at IWHS didn't you?---You can go back to multicultural health and I have enough evidence of who was there and when, emails, correspondence and also files of clients coming to the service for counselling and not only with Transcultural Mental Health but also with Lifeline and STARTTS.

Commissioner, those are the questions I have for this witness.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Mr Chhabra, do you have anything arising out of that?

MR CHHABRA: May I thank the Commission but nothing arising.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Thank you.

MR RAJALINGAM: Commissioner, I wonder if I can – Ms Sharobeem can be excused.

40 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Thank you, Ms Sharobeem. You can step down now.

MS DE CASTRO: Commissioner, I'm sorry. I have some questions - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, sorry.

MS DE CASTRO: - - - for the department if – just one brief matter if I may.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, certainly. Yes.

MS DE CASTRO: Thank you. Ms Sharobeem, my name is Janet De Castro and I am here for the Department of Justice. I am just going to ask you a few questions about the time you were with the Anti-Discrimination Board. It won't take long. On 15 June Counsel Assisting took you through a few questions about the ADB and he established that you worked there from 2015 – on the board rather, not worked there but sat on the board from
10 2013 to 2015. Is that correct?---Yes.

Thank you. And in the course of that evidence – sorry, I take that back. In the course of the questioning Counsel Assisting said that – asked you if you were aware that the Department of Justice was the old Anti-Discrimination Board.---Yes.

Now, as a matter of practical reality that's not strictly correct because the Anti-Discrimination Board still exists as an entity and it's, it's – the Department of Justice is not the old Anti-Discrimination Board. So you
20 accept that?---I said it was wrong. Yeah.

Yes. And it doesn't change your answers to any of the questions that - - -?
---No, it doesn't.

Excellent. Thank you. The only other thing I had to ask you, Counsel Assisting suggested to you that you were paid \$10,194.17 from the Anti-Discrimination Board in sitting fees. And you agreed that that was a sitting fee. The department would like to tender the evidence. The figure that was paid is a little bit less than that. It was \$9,662.22 gross, which was paid to
30 you on our records. Do you agree with that?---I agree that I was paid a sitting fee.

Okay. And - - -?---Not that I request it was paid automatically.

Certainly. Commissioner, what I would like to do, and Counsel Assisting and Ms Sharobeem's lawyers have been shown a document which is evidence of each of the payments totalling \$9,662.22. We would seek to tender this and we will provide the Commission with a summary document by the end of business today which summarises this. This material is also in
40 the brief, if you would like to be taken to those pages, but it would save time.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MR RAJALINGAM: I will tender that in due course.

THE COMMISSIONER: Then it will be Exhibit 48, I think.

#EXHIBIT 48 - DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BOARD – RECORD OF PAYMENTS TO EMAN SHAROBEEM

10 MS DE CASTRO: Thank you, Commissioner. That concludes my questions.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MS DE CASTRO: Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Anything arising out of those questions?

MR CHHABRA: No, Commissioner.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Thank you, Ms Sharobeem. You can step down and you're excused if you'd like to leave.

THE WITNESS EXCUSED

[12.31pm]

MR RAJALINGAM: Commissioner, may I tender a statement of Ms Eleri Morgan-Thomas? I have four copies. And she is an officer from the Family and Community Services.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: No objection, Mr Chhabra?

MR CHHABRA: Although I haven't seen the document, frankly, there's no objection given the import of it.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Exhibit 49, then.

#EXHIBIT 49 - STATEMENT OF MS ELERI MORGAN-THOMAS OF 15 JUNE 2017

40

MR RAJALINGAM: I will be seeking a suppression order in relation to that statement on the relevant parts of the attachments to the statement advised by FACS as being of a confidential nature. And that's been conveyed to my instructing solicitor.

THE COMMISSIONER: How am I going to identify them?

MR RAJALINGAM: Attachment 1 is to be suppressed. Attachment 3 is to be suppressed at this stage.

THE COMMISSIONER: So I make an order suppressing attachments 1 and 3.

10 **SUPPRESSION ORDER RELATING TO THE STATEMENT OF MS ELERI MORGAN-THOMAS OF 15 JUNE 2017: ATTACHMENTS 1 AND 3 OF THE STATEMENT TO BE SUPPRESSED**

MR RAJALINGAM: I also tender an electronic copy of Sulabha Pawar's statement, an officer from the Smith Family. It's in electronic form because it's about 600 pages. I can hand up copies of that.

THE COMMISSIONER: Can be Exhibit 50 if there's no objection.

20 MR CHHABRA: Pardon me, Commissioner. There's no objection. I understand the electronic form of that document is a compendium of agreements and whatnot. On that basis, no objection.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Exhibit 50, then.

#EXHIBIT 50 - ELECTRONIC VERSION OF STATEMENT OF SULABHA PAWAR DATED 27 MARCH 2017 – CD VERSION

30 MR RAJALINGAM: Can I tender the payment records for Ms Sharobeem from the Anti-Discrimination Board from the Department of Justice?

THE COMMISSIONER: Weren't they tendered previously?

MR RAJALINGAM: Oh, the copies – we just need the copies, I think.

MS DE CASTRO: This is a different - - -

40 MR RAJALINGAM: Have we, oh, okay. These are clearer copies. So I will – I've been asked to tender them, so I've got no problem with doing that.

THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Exhibit 51.

#EXHIBIT 51 - EMAIL RE ST GEORGE INTERNET BANKING PAYEE TRANSFER – COPY OF RECEIPT

MR RAJALINGAM: May I tender emails in relation to Neth's evidence that was referred to in evidence but not tendered at the time? Emails on 5 April, sorry, 28 June, 2015 between Neth and Ms Sharobeem.

MR CHHABRA: No objection.

THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 52 then.

10 MR RAJALINGAM: Commissioner, we were expecting a statement from Ms Josephine Chow, an officer of the Department of Health. We haven't received it yet. We're hoping to receive it in the next week and when that time comes I think my instructing solicitor will make an application to make it part of the whole brief of evidence.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right.

MR RAJALINGAM: Could I ask – there were some other witnesses to be called and we've decided not to call them in the interests of saving time and getting down to the issues that matter. The witnesses that can be excused
20 are Nada Damcevska-Stamenkovska firstly.

THE COMMISSIONER: I'll excuse her.

MR RAJALINGAM: The next witness is Dusanka Mrdjenovic. She can be excused.

THE COMMISSIONER: I'll excuse her as well.

30 MR RAJALINGAM: Ms Eleri Morgan-Thomas was to be called, she can be excused.

THE COMMISSIONER: I excuse her.

MR RAJALINGAM: Ms Josephine Chow, as the Commissioner's heard, subject to receiving the statement she can be excused, so perhaps that can wait.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Right.

40

MR RAJALINGAM: In terms of submissions I'd be asking for six weeks and I've spoken to Mr Chhabra, I think it would be appropriate for him to have the same amount of time, simply because he will have to go through the material to check it as we've discussed, even though he may not have much to add to – I'm not sure what he has planned but he will at least have to go through the very lengthy document that I propose will potentially be submitted.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Chhabra?

MR CHHABRA: Whilst I would dearly like to have more than six weeks, I appreciate six weeks is an extension of time in any event. I am content with that course.

THE COMMISSIONER: Okay then. The orders for submissions will be six weeks for Counsel Assisting and six weeks after that for the response.

10 MR RAJALINGAM: Thank you, Commissioner. Can I just confirm one other matter. Commissioner, in relation to the statement of Eleri Morgan-Thomas, I asked for some suppression orders in relation to attachments 1 and 3. I withdraw that, and I ask for the following to be suppressed – paragraph 31, the draft internal audit report complaints allegations against community service, service providers’ review, and paragraph 53, folder of material about the funded contract management framework. I’m simply asking – it’s the same thing but I’ve specified the actual part of the attachment.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Then I make the suppression orders in relation to those matters instead of the other.

VARIATION OF SUPPRESSION ORDER RELATING TO THE STATEMENT OF MS ELERI MORGAN-THOMAS OF 15 JUNE 2017: DRAFT INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT-COMPLAINTS/ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COMMUNITY SERVICES SERVICE PROVIDERS REVIEW IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 31 AND FOLDER OF MATERIAL ABOUT THE FUNDED CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 53 OF THE STATEMENT TO BE SUPPRESSED INSTEAD OF ATTACHMENTS 1 AND 3

30

MR RAJALINGAM: Commissioner, I do apologise, I was just going to get dates for the – so six weeks from today is 24 August, but perhaps could I have till, could the Commission have till 25 August, which is the Friday?

40 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, well, Counsel Assisting submissions in by 25 August.

MR RAJALINGAM: Yes. And then submissions in response - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Better give Mr Chhabra the extra day as well.

MR RAJALINGAM: Yes.

MR CHHABRA: I’m indebted.

MR RAJALINGAM: Which would be 6 October, but he can have till the weekend after that, just to be sure, 9 October. I'm happy for that if he wants an extra weekend.

MR CHHABRA: Ecstatic, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, all right. Keep you ecstatic then, we'll have 9 October for the response. Thank you.

10 MR RAJALINGAM: Thank you, Commissioner. That's all from me.

THE COMMISSIONER: Anything from you, Mr Chhabra?

MR CHHABRA: No, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

Well, thank you. Thank you, gentlemen, for your assistance during the course of the inquiry and we'll adjourn.

20

**AT 12.39PM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY
[12.39pm]**