

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Tarlo E15/1982

PLACE: Wetherill Park
NAME: Jihan HANA
ADDRESS: Known to the ICAC
OCCUPATION: Unemployed
TELEPHONE NO: Known to the ICAC
DATE: 5 December 2016

States: -

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in Court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
2. I am [REDACTED] years of age.
3. I was employed by an organisation called the Immigrant Women's Health Service (IWHS) between October 2013 and June 2016 as a facilitator.
4. Around August 2013 whilst looking to undertake work experience I went to Centre-link, where I met Audrey Lai. Audrey that sent me to see Eman Sharobeem at IWHS. Initially I was offered volunteer work at IWHS and when a position became available I was offered a paid position as a facilitator.

Signature



Witness




STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Tarlo E15/1982
NAME: Jihan HANA

5. I became the facilitator for the same group I had been volunteering in, being the Middle Eastern Senior's Group (MESG). This group ran from three different locations being; Bankstown on Monday, Bossley Park on Wednesday and Fairfield on Friday. The facility at Bankstown and Bossley Park were hired community halls and we did not have our own room or office located at these premises; we just used the main hall. The Bankstown group met at the Georges Hall Community Centre and Bossley Park was just another Community Centre. Being the senior's group we did not stop during the school holidays except for things like public holidays. Our Christmas break would be between 2 and 3 weeks. The average age in my groups was 65 years old.
6. The other facilitators working with me were Suham Talal and Suhan Hermiz who joined later. My role as group leader included making bookings for speakers to attend, excursions, cooking and anything else to ensure the groups ran properly. I was the Group Leader however I never given that title. I would book transport for excursions, updated information regarding our clients, prepared programs and those kinds of tasks. The volunteers mostly prepared food for morning tea and I assisted where needed.
7. Initially Berri Gailani would buy the food for the group but this was later done by Suham Talal. I am not aware of the limit placed on Berri or Suham when they went shopping but I know Eman would have kept the value low. Eman didn't approve of a lot of money being spent on these kinds of things. I was responsible

Signature



Witness



STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Tarlo E15/1982
NAME: Jihan HANA

for buying small gifts which we would buy monthly for each group and outings that the group went on. Each member of the group would contribute \$5 towards the outing and the remainder was paid by IWHS. Initially I would cover the cost of IWHS portion of the outing and then claim it back. This later changed and I was given \$900 petty cash to be responsible for and this was to be used for things like group outings. An outing to the Club might cost between \$200 and \$400.

8. I would spend about \$120 per month to purchase small gifts for the three groups; being \$40 per group. This was to buy small items valued at \$5 or less which were used as prizes for Bingo. I remember one year Eman bought small gifts for my seniors group on Mother's Day and Christmas but this did not last and I don't think she did this for every group. Eman's gifts were small inexpensive tokens only. I think this was occurred in 2014.
9. It would be rare for Eman to interact with the groups and if she did attend it would be for a very short time. Her visits would occur around a special event like Christmas and within two minutes she would be gone.
10. I would describe Eman as having a controlling personality. She was very tight with the finances and wanted to be informed of everything.
11. I would need to regularly report back to the office the number of participants who attended each group. Eman also expected me to send her an email with the number of participants. I would send the information to Watfa and I needed to

Signature



Witness



STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Tarlo E15/1982
NAME: Jihan HANA

prepare a monthly report which included any issues or problems. If we had a problem or issue with one of the ladies, Eman would want to know all the details.

On average the Monday group had between 10 and 20 participants; Wednesday group had about 25 participants and the Friday group had between 20 and 25 participants.

12. There were other occasions when I had additional volunteers helping with the group but they did not stay long.
13. I was required to submit a timesheet indicating the days and hours I worked each week. These sheets would be emailed to Eman and a copy left for the accountant. I believe if there was an additional claim; (ie extra hours) the accountant would need to get approval from Eman before paying. I would always get approval from Eman before spending additional funds or claiming for extra hours. It was expected that prior approval was sought.

PSYCH

14. I believe Eman spent her time attending meetings, doing media interviews and things like that, however I think most of her time was spent counselling. I know she does marriage and family counselling. I know Eman is a psychologist and she insisted that we addressed her as Doctor Eman or just Doctor.
15. When I first started at IWHS I had marital problems so I started to receive counselling from Eman and she told me she was a psychologist. Eman then gave

Signature



Witness



STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Tarlo E15/1982
NAME: Jihan HANA

me a paid position with IWHS and when I needed a place to stay she helped. I received counselling from Eman on about 3 or 4 occasions. To my understanding I was seeing her as a counsellor.

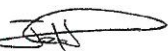
16. Eman was a busy person and saw approximately two or three clients per day. The office ladies Marie Abboud and Watfa El-Baf maintained an appointment book for Eman and it was always full. I believe she got lots of calls from people who wanted to see her but she did not have time to see them all. I am not sure whether she was seeing them as a counsellor or psychologist.

17. Eman allowed me to rent a unit from her. Originally it was being rented for \$470 per week but this was too much for me. Eman said I could rent it for \$400 initially and every 6 months she would increase the rent by \$10 which she did. In relation to my wages; initially I was earning \$18 per hour and in 2015 this changed to \$20 per hour.

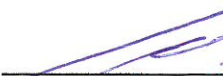
BUDGET

18. I would describe the budget allocated to the groups as being tight. I don't know if we had more money available but we were kept on a tight budget. If we needed anything we needed to continually put our case forward. For example if we needed new or additional cooking equipment I would need to approach and ask Eman for approval. Eman would normally say no to these requests until what we

Signature



Witness



STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Tarlo E15/1982
NAME: Jihan HANA

had was broken or didn't work anymore, and there was no option but to spend the money.

19. Some of the things I bought for the group included small souvenirs, mugs, candles, small food items and even costume jewellery. As I said before, these things would cost no more than \$5 each. There would be no reason to purchase expensive items when you are restricted by a tight budget.

OTHER PROGRAMS

20. I recall Eman asking me to look at a flyer for a new program called 'Steps to Employment' in case she wanted me to assist as a facilitator. Which I did but the program never actually commenced. If it did I was never a part of it but I did not see anything to make me think it had commenced without my involvement. I am aware of other programs being run by IWHS which included; English classes and parenting programs.

21. The 'Steps to Employment' program was supposed to assist people on how to prepare when applying for work. It was to include preparing an application and what you should consider when preparing for the interview process. It was not designed to dress or groom someone for an interview. There was no training component in this program to my knowledge except where you could find out what qualifications you may need for a particular position or how to get those qualifications.

Signature




Witness



STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Tarlo E15/1982
NAME: Jihan HANA

22. I have heard of the Barrington Training Services and I remember seeing a flyer however I do not know if or when this program operated. I remember that Eman employed a lady called Joelle as the project manager for this program.
23. In relation to the Department of Fair Trading; I organised them to provide a presentation to my senior group. As a group leader/facilitator I needed to organise for guest speakers to present to our groups. I needed to organise guest speakers, and I would suggest what topics should be covered. So I contacted the Department of Fair Trading to come out and talk to my group at Bossley Park and Fairfield. Other organisations I used included Centre-link, Department of Housing and Department of Health.
24. As of October or November 2015 Eman stopped coming to the IWHS centre at Fairfield. Marie and Watfa were running the organisation which was normal. Eman had been the manager of the organisation but it was Marie and Watfa who did all the running of the organisation. Eman spent most of her time doing interviews or seeing clients.
25. I am aware that Eman had two sons however I only ever saw one at the IWHS office in Fairfield. Richard used to pop in sometimes and then he started working for the Non English Speaking Housing organisation (NESH). I did not interact with him or see what he was doing as I was only in the office on a Friday.

Signature



Witness



STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Tarlo E15/1982
NAME: Jihan HANA

26. I am not sure what Richard did in the office but I know he used to pop into the legal room and use the computer. I think he also did some handyman type work instead of getting a handyman or qualified tradesman.

NESH

27. I later started to work at NESH because I needed to work additional days to earn more. Eman wanted to be told if we wanted to work somewhere else otherwise she would get upset with us. So I approached Eman and told her that I needed to find some extra work and she suggested I work for NESH. At the time Nevine Ghaly was the manager of NESH however due to the passing of my father I did not work there long. So I worked for NESH for less than two months.

28. Whilst working at NESH I attended two days per week but there really was nothing for me to do on the days I attended. NESH did not have any groups or activities and whilst I was there NESH was not assisting clients to find housing which I believe was the original purpose of NESH. I did not see Richard at NESH though I knew he was employed by NESH at the same time. I did ask Eman what I was supposed to do as, there was no work at NESH. Eman suggested I do my IWHS group planning work to fill my hours at NESH.

29. I am aware that Eman was the chairperson of NESH when I started at IWHS and she helped me get a house though NESH where I lived for about 10 months. Apparently 10 months was the maximum time a person was able to receive

Signature 

Witness 

STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Tarlo E15/1982
NAME: Jihan HANA

assistance from NESH and then you had to go it alone; this is how I ended up renting a unit from Eman.

30. My position was a paid position, if I needed to go anywhere I needed to use my own car as there was no work car available to use. I was not aware NESH had a company car at the time. Whilst working at NESH I believe Richard was using his own vehicle like me. Though I later heard a rumour that it was actually a work vehicle which had been bought by IWHS for NESH.

QUESTIONS

31. Whilst being interviewed by ICAC Investigator Thomas I was asked if IWHS had a camera for taking photos. IWHS had a small compact camera which was kept in Eman's office. If I remember correctly it was red in colour and it was used by Eman to take photos during meetings with important members of the community such as a Minister.

Signature _____



Witness _____

