

Wednesday 19 September 2018

Investigation into the conduct of a principal officer of two non-government organisations and others

ICAC FINDINGS

The ICAC makes 24 serious corrupt conduct findings against Eman Sharobeem, including that between 2009 and 2015, she improperly exercised her official functions to benefit herself by arranging to obtain up to \$443,000, through transfers to her bank account, from the Immigrant Women's Health Service by way or reimbursement for the cost of goods and services she had purchased for personal use, knowing she was not entitled to do so. The full list of findings is available in the summary chapter of the report.

ICAC RECOMMENDATIONS

The ICAC is of the opinion that the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) should be obtained with respect to the prosecution of Ms Sharobeem for the following offences:

- the common law offence of misconduct in public office in relation to her conduct the subject of serious corrupt conduct findings in chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 in the report
- fraud contrary to section 192E of the *Crimes Act 1900* in relation to her conduct the subject of serious corrupt conduct findings in chapters 2, 4, 5 and 11 in the report
- obtaining benefit by deception contrary to section 178BA of the Crimes Act in relation to her conduct the subject of serious corrupt conduct findings in chapters 2 and 4 in the report
- publishing a false statement contrary to section 192H of the Crimes Act in relation to her conduct the subject of serious corrupt conduct findings in chapter 3
- using a false document contrary to section 254 of the Crimes Act in relation to her conduct the subject of serious corrupt conduct findings in chapter 3
- giving false or misleading evidence contrary to section 87 of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* in relation to her evidence that: she did not know how to use the IWHS online banking website (chapter 2); she mistakenly used \$4,186 of IWHS funds to pay for the supply and installation of an automatic gate at her home (chapter 3); she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the American University; and she did not claim to be a psychologist when providing care to Mr X (chapter 10).

CORRUPTION PREVENTION

The Commission makes 12 corruption prevention recommendations to the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) and the Department of Family and Community Services, the two NSW Government agencies that substantially funded IWHS and the Non-English Speaking Housing Women's Scheme Inc (NESH). The full list of corruption prevention recommendations is available in the summary chapter of the report.

BACKGROUND

On 14 December 2015, the SWSLHD made a report to the Commission that Ms Sharobeem misappropriated more than \$100,000 in publicly provided funds from IWHS. The report arose as the result of the IWHS auditor reporting his concerns about Ms Sharobeem's conduct to the SWSLHD. The report was made pursuant to section 11 of the ICAC Act, which imposes a duty on the principal officer of a public authority to report any possible corrupt conduct to the Commission.

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