

Date: 24 September 2020  
Ref: 00203/20

The Hon Wes Fang MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Law and Justice  
[law@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:law@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Fang

**Re: Request to clarify evidence provided to the Committee on 24 August 2020**

You and the Committee may recall that I, along with three of my icare Board colleagues, appeared before the Committee on 24 August 2020 as part of the 2020 Review of the Workers Compensation Scheme.

I have subsequently (in the course of reviewing the Uncorrected Transcript) become aware that the procedures for witnesses are that:

*“If you wish to clarify or amend what you said at the hearing please request this in writing to the committee. You should also be clear on whether this information can be published. It is up to the committee to decide whether information is published or kept confidential”.*

Please take this letter as such a request.

**1) Background to this Request**

The background is as follows:

My Board Chair, Mr Michael Carapiet said in his opening statement, on behalf of all of us that *“the team here will provide all we can to the Committee in undertaking its duties and for any matters taken on notice we will endeavour to have the answer to you as soon as possible”.*

An area of keen interest to the Committee was the contract value for the former CEO's wife and, consistent with the approach to provide all I could at the time to the Committee, I answered a question (from the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC) with a qualification as being to *“my best recollection - I do not have it in front of me”.*

An extract (from the uncorrected transcript) follows:

*The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Mr Plumb, you oversaw what was called the Project Stanley investigation from the audit and risk committee. Is that correct?*

*Mr PLUMB: That is correct.*

*The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Project Stanley was the investigation name given to this particular matter to do with the employment of the former CEO's wife?*

*Mr PLUMB: That is correct.*

*The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: In the course of that did you discover what the value of the contract was?*

*Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: We know you did, Mr Plumb.*

*The CHAIR: Order! What I want to do is have Mr Shoebridge listen to the evidence that is provided and then asked questions, not to interject with commentary throughout this. It is going to go much smoother and much quicker if we just allow questions to be asked of the witnesses, let them provide a response and then ask for clarification, not interjecting with our own commentary.*

*Mr Mookhey, you have the call.*

*The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Thank you. Mr Plumb, did you, in the course of the Project Stanley investigation, discover what the value of the contract was to the former CEO's wife?*

*Mr PLUMB: Yes, I did.*

*The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: What was the value?*

*Mr PLUMB: My best recollection—I do not have it in front of me—was that she was paid \$750 per day and she was paid over three years. She started somewhere in early '16 and finished in early '19. It was an amount in excess of \$800,000 over that period of time.*

## **2) Clarification / Correction**

As noted above, I answered the question on a “best recollection” based on my oversight of (and recall approximately 15 months later) of the Project Stanley investigation undertaken during the first half of 2019.

I have subsequently re-read the Project Stanley investigation report from May 2019 and (using this as the source) advise that:

*Her contract with icare was initially for a day rate of \$700 per day plus on-costs and superannuation. There was one rate adjustment effective 1 January 2018 when her rate was increased to \$725 per day plus on-costs and superannuation. The total contract value for the period 1 February 2016 to 31 March 2019 was \$772,524.*

As noted above, I answered the question on a “best recollection” based on my oversight of (and recall of) the Project Stanley investigation undertaken during the first half of 2019.

I also advise that I have no objection as to whether or not my clarification letter is published, noting that any decision to do so is at the discretion of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

David Plumb  
Chair  
Audit and Risk Committee, icare Board