

## AFP RECORD OF EVIDENCE-IN-CHIEF INTERVIEW

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RECORD OF EVIDENCE-IN-CHIEF INTERVIEW BETWEEN DETECTIVE LEADING SENIOR CONSTABLE TRENT MADDERS AND BRITTANY HIGGINS CONDUCTED AT THE BELCONNEN POLICE STATION, BENJAMIN WAY, BELCONNEN, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY ON WEDNESDAY, TWENTY-SIX MAY TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE

PERSONS PRESENT: DETECTIVE LEADING SENIOR CONSTABLE TRENT MADDERS  
SENIOR CONSTABLE EMMA FRIZZELL  
HEIDI YATES  
BRITTANY HIGGINS

TIME COMMENCED: NINE FIFTY-FIVE AM

MADDERS: This is an evidence-in-chief interview between Detective Leading Senior Constable Trent MADDERS and Miss Brittany HIGGINS conducted at the Belconnen Police Station on Wednesday, the twenty-sixth of May, twenty twenty-one. The time is now nine fifty-five am. Persons present will be myself, being a prescribed person in accordance with Regulation Four of the Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulation two thousand and nine. My corroborator is Senior Constable Emma FRIZZELL, who is also a prescribed person. The vulnerable witness is Miss Brittany HIGGINS, who is twenty-six years of age. So, Brittany's here with her support person, Miss Heidi YATES. And for the purpose of voice identification, I'll just have all persons present to state their names.

FRIZZELL: Senior Constable Emma FRIZZELL, badge one two eight nine six.

MADDERS:

Q1. Brittany?  
A Brittany HIGGINS.

Thank you.

YATES: Heidi YATES.

MADDERS:

Thank you.

Q2. All right, Brittany, so, as in life we have ground rules for when we do this interview. So, I'll just go through those now okay.  
A Yeah, of course.

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- Q3. So, it's important you understand that any statement or answer that you may care to make during this conversation today, has to be true to the best of your knowledge or belief and that it accurately sets out the evidence you'd be prepared to give in court as a witness. Do you understand?
- A Yes.
- Q4. If you knowingly state anything false or anything you do not believe to be true and it is tendered into evidence, you may be liable to prosecution. Do you understand?
- A Yep.
- Q5. Do you clearly understand what I've just explained to you?
- A Yes.
- Q6. Excellent. So, it's important that you tell us everything you can remember, even if it's things you don't think are important, okay.
- A Okay.
- Q7. I don't want you to guess or make anything up, but just do your best to tell us what you do remember, all right. And if you don't remember something, you can say, Trent, I have no idea. All right.
- A Okay.
- Q8. So, if you do need a break at any stage, you just let us know, and like I said before, Heidi's here for support and welfare, and if she spots that you may need a break, she'll let us know and we'll go from there, okay.
- A Okay.
- Q9. The same is – if you don't understand something that Emma and I say, just tell us and we'll see if we can change our line of questioning.
- A Okay.
- Q10. So, I just want to make sure I've got that right. If we ask a question, in more than one way, it's not that we want you to change your answer, it's just that we're trying to ask it in a different way, okay.
- A Okay.
- Q11. As I've said before to you, it's really important that you use your own words to describe things. So, if you use a particular word for a particular body part or anything like that, you use that word, okay.
- A Yep.
- Q12. The same as if you feel need to swear, please don't hold back, this is a safe place, just say whatever comes to your mind, okay. And Emma and I will be writing as we're talking to you, but we are listening to everything you say, okay.
- A That's fine.

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Q13. All right. So, Brittany, do you agree that previously on the twenty-fourth of Feb this year, twenty twenty-one, you participated in an evidence-in-chief interview up on the Gold Coast?

A That's correct.

Q14. Right. And during that evidence-in-chief interview, you provided us with a version of events and answered questions we had.

A Yes.

Q15. Yep. Cool. So, today's purpose of this evidence-in-chief interview, is just to clarify some points that have come up during our investigation.

A Mm-hmm.

Q16. So, we'll just go through those if you don't mind.

A Yeah, of course.

Brilliant. You've got – have you got your – the notes? The order?

FRIZZELL: I've got that one, like this one.

MADDERS:

Q17. Sorry, I just – I just want to make sure we don't miss anything that's all good.

A Yes.

Q18. All right, Brittany, so, during that first EIC, you spoke about Eighty-eight Mile An Hour.

A Yes.

Q19. The nightclub in Civic. Is that right?

A Yep, yeah, that's right.

Q20. Can you recall what you said about that nightclub during that first interview?

A Um, I said, that I didn't entirely remember getting there.

Q21. Yep.

A I remember saying, I wasn't sure if it was an Uber or a taxi that got us there. Um, I remember relating the fact that there were four people in our party that went to that next venue. Um, and I remember disclosing the fact that obviously I think there more drinks and more shots, um, but that the actual sort of what happened while I was there, I don't really have a firm grasp on.

Q22. Yeah.

A Um, but I do remember who was there. I kind of remember, um, yeah, and that sort of sticks out to what I recall relating to you.

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- Q23. Okay. Yeah. All right, do you – do you remember when you first realised, after the incident, that it had been Eighty-eight Mile, you were at?
- A Um, no, I'm – I'm pretty sure it was confirmed to me by text or WhatsApp from someone that we'd been there. I think it was my friend, Lauren.
- Q24. Okay.
- A Um, and that was how I feel like I was informed that it was Eighty-eight. I hadn't been there before so, I knew that – I knew there was a light-up dance floor.
- Q25. Mm-hmm.
- A Um, and for some reason I just – I – I know or have the knowledge or feel like it was Eighty-eight Miles Per Hour.
- Q26. Okay.
- A Yeah, obviously at that point, I was fuzzy, but that's where I feel like we went.
- 
- Q27. Okay. Do you remember when – and it might have been Lauren told you it had been Eighty-eight. Do you remember the date?
- A It would have been in the days following.
- Q28. Okay. Do you remember when you told police that it was Eighty-eight Miles An Hour?
- A Um, no. Um, no, I don't remember, um, specifically. I don't know if it happened in the first – when I first spoke with them initially.
- Q29. Yeah.
- A Um, or if it was when I spoke with you.
- Q30. Yep.
- A Um, I remember disclosing at some point in this process that it was Eighty-eight.
- Q31. Yeah, fair enough, it's a long time ago too.
- A Yeah, yeah.
- Q32. And just leading into that about Eighty-eight Mile, do you remember having a conversation with Captain or now Major Nikita IRVINE?
- A At Eighty-eight?
- Q33. No, not at Eighty-eight, at Parliament House when she walked – she went for a walk with you. Do you remember?
- A She has – I don't specifically remember it. But I remember she has reached out since.
- Q34. Okay.
- A And has talked about the fact that she didn't feel like she did enough or that she apologised that I didn't have enough support or something at the time. So, I knew people in my office knew, um,

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probably she was one of the people who I had disclosed it to. Um, I guess, whether it was because she was in sort of that Defence sphere of people, who seemed to already have information, um, to an extent, um, but yeah, she's reached out and so, I trust that to be true.

Q35.     Yep. Okay. Yep. But you don't remember any specific - - -  
A           Of the conversation?

Q36.     - - - no.  
A           No. I mean I feel like to an extent, I disclosed so many parts of what had happened to me to so many people in Parliament, that, um, it doesn't surprise me. Um, but no, I don't really remember the conversation that we had.

Q37.     Okay. And you said just earlier, and you have said before, and correct me if I'm incorrect with anything.  
A           Yeah, of course.

Q38.     That you feel or you remember that he was buying you a lot of drinks.  
A           Yes.

Q39.     And he being Bruce.  
A           Yes.

Q40.     Where did that come from, where did that memory come from?  
A           Um, I remember at the first venue that he'd bought a round of drinks.

Q41.     Mm-hmm.  
A           Um, to my recollection. And then I continued to get drinks. But I never paid for them because I checked my credit card.

Q42.     Yep.  
A           And so, my assumption was on the basis that he'd bought that first round, that he'd continued to buy rounds after that.

Q43.     Okay.  
A           Um, yeah, from my recollection of that night, whether it was the other gentleman who was there, Austin, or whether it was Bruce, I'm really - I don't feel like it was Lauren who was buying me the drinks. I really remember, to an extent, um, I feel like it was the boys who were buying us drinks.

Q44.     Okay. And again, do you remember what those drinks were at all?  
A           I - I think it was the full spectrum. Um, I think it was at a range of, you know, I - I do remember at one point there were shots at the second venue.

Q45.     Yep.  
A           Um, that was sort of one of the few sort of touchstone moments that I kind of have at the second venue. Um, I remember they were - I think it was - I think I was drinking Diet Coke and vodka to start with.

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I think there were vodka lime and sodas. Um, and then I think there were other different, more sort of elaborate drinks that I wouldn't pick for myself at the second venue. But, um, I don't specifically remember what they were. Um, I just remember to an extent, this weird – obviously, like this taste of different alcohol that's all. I don't know, um, that's – that's what I remember. It's hard because I don't have like a full cognizant memory, but I just remember, like I remember obviously like random sights and sounds and touch and taste, and that was just one of the things that I remember.

Okay. Have you got any questions Emma?

FRIZZELL:

About that so far?

MADDERS:

Yeah, about that so far, yeah.

Q46. And do you remember anything about your interaction with Bruce at Eighty-eight?

A Um, I remember sitting beside him, or I remember Lauren and Austin, the other two parties, um, were sitting close together. And I remember he and I were sort of sitting together at one point, um, around the time when I think the shots were given to us.

Q47. Mm-hmm.

A Um, but beyond that, I don't really remember much of that second venue to be honest.

Q48. Okay.

A But I just know being cognizant of his presence and the fact that they were over there and we were here, um, yeah.

Q49. Okay. Do you remember if he touched you or was becoming familiar or anything like that?

A I think so. I think – I think as the night sort of wore on, um, he sort of found or made his way sort of more into my space. Or I remember being cognizant of that. Um, but I don't specifically really remember at that second venue.

Q50. Okay. So, we have – do you remember meeting Federal Agent Katie THELNING on the first of April?

A Yes, I remember her name, yeah.

Q51. Yep. She was with Rebecca CLEAVES, Federal Agent CLEAVES.

A She's or – got in her notes, ah, "Bruce was sitting with me, got quite handsie, I didn't really mind." Do you remember saying that to her? Um, I remember having a conversation with her, I remember relaying what I knew at the time. Um, and – and yeah, I – I trust my recollection then, so, sure.

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- Q52.      Yep. Okay. Good. Is there anything you can say about that comment?
- A          Um, I guess, I felt like that way, on the basis that when I fell over he picked me up. I felt like he was sitting really close to me. Um, and – and I was cognizant of that. Um, so, I guess where that's – that's where that statement stems from.
- Q53.      Okay. Cool. And again we're trying to ask you to go back two years in your mind here, so we understand with everything.
- A          Yeah, yeah, that's all right.
- Q54.      So, would it be fair to say, as you previously stated to us, Brittany, your – and you just said before your memories of Eighty-eight are quite sporadic, sporadic in nature?
- A          Yes, yes.
- Q55.      You don't have a full recollection?
- A          Yeah, yeah, and I think that's sort of something that, um, yeah, I'm very comfortable stating, I do have a very sort of sparse recollections of, you know, it sounds like a fluent and coherent account. But, you know, realistically, I was very out of it, um, and I had moments that I can really touch on and recall. But I don't have a full picture, um, exactly.
- Q56.      Yep. Yep. Okay.
- A          Yep.
- Q57.      Do you think or do you have any idea of how many drinks you may have had that night?
- A          No. I mean I think even by the time we left The Dock, I'd probably had four rounds of something.
- Q58.      Okay.
- A          Three or four. Um, and then I just remember there was a lot more at the next venue, or there was definitely more at the next venue. So, um, there was a lot and I guess, um, yeah, I have a bad habit when I'm working of not eating all the time, so I'm sure that made it worse, um, so yes.
- Q59.      Yeah. Okay. And in regards to the drinking too, would you drink alcohol and water or would it just be alcohol?
- A          Usually I would but that night I don't recall ever just having water, um, no.
- Q60.      Okay. All right. And it was mainly spirits and – no beer or anything like that?
- A          Yeah. No, no, no.
- Q61.      Not beer?
- A          No, no.

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Okay. All right. Have you got any questions, Emma?

FRIZZELL:

Not just yet.

MADDERS:

Q62. Okay. All right. So, Brittany, we've got your phone today obviously we're going through it. Thanks for consenting to that.

A Yeah. That's okay.

Q63. In regards to your phone, when you met Senior Constable Sarah HAHN from SACAT.

A Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Q64. She's got in her notes that it says, "Images do not delete." Do you remember if you took any photographs during the night?

A Oh, um, I've not seen any to be honest.

Q65. Okay.

A Um, ah, yeah, I've not seen any. Like I don't know, like we didn't pose for any good shots or anything.

Q66. Yep.

A And I didn't post anything on, yeah, any of my social media platforms that night. Um, it wasn't like a big celebratory event, so, I didn't really mark it like that or take photos in that way, um, yep.

Q67. Oh, yeah. Okay. So, to the best of your recollection is you don't have it, you can't remember if you have any?

A No, I don't think there is any to be honest. Um, I mean other people may have some maybe, ah, but I – I don't think I took any.

Q68. Okay.

A Or I've not seen any in my camera roll.

Okay. Have you got anything else about the phone?

FRIZZELL:

No.

MADDERS:

No.

Q69. All right, Brittany. So, the next thing we just need to clarify is in regards to seeing a doctor.

A Yes.

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- Q70. Can you just go through again when you saw the doctor if you remember?  
 A Um, I don't specifically remember, um, where or when. Um, I remember buying a pregnancy test in Perth, um, but I don't really remember when the doctor thing sort of happened.
- Q71. All right. And in Perth, was that during the election stuff?  
 A Election, yeah. Um, there was like a convenience store not far from where my hotel was and I think that happened around mid-way through, um, because I was quite slow on the uptake of sort of processing everything. Um, and it was my – me retrospectively just checking because I was late, not stressed.
- Q72. Okay. Do you remember going for the morning after pill at any stage?  
 A No, and that's why I took the pregnancy test.
- Q73. Okay. And what about an examination, did you see - - -  
 A No, I didn't – I didn't seek a rape examination or anything.
- Q74. Okay. Did you attend any doctors afterwards, do you remember?  
 A Yeah, I eventually did. Um, and I was prescribed sort of anxiety medication and stuff like that just to help me cope. Um, but it wasn't in relation to, um, I wasn't getting examined for my physical health, um, it was – it was more about sort of placating the mental implications of everything.
- Q75. Okay. Do you remember when that was?  
 A Um, no, but I'm sure there'll be something in my phone that can verify or corroborate that. But I don't have a date off the top of my head.
- Q76. Yep. Have you got those – the text message? So, one of the people we spoke to was, Ben DILLAWAY. And he provided us with some text messages. I just want to confirm, if you don't mind, there's a message here, it's dated the twenty-seventh of March, twenty nineteen.  
 A Mm-hmm.
- Q77. At nine thirty-five am. He's just said, "I hope you're doing okay."  
 And you said, "Hey," or the reply is, "Hey, I'm doing fine. Went to a GP last night and am back at work today."  
 A Mm-hmm.
- Q78. Does that – does that jog a memory?  
 A Yeah, um, to be honest, I was placating him. He was stressed about me and I don't think I went to a GP at that stage. I think I went to a GP later in the piece.
- Q79. Okay. Okay.  
 A Um, he was just worried about me but I was pretty much bed-bound that entire week, so I didn't actually go anywhere.

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Q80. Okay. So, and we have done Medicare checks.

A Yeah.

Q81. Which don't show any doctor visits around that time.

A No, no, I had, um, I had an expired Medicare card for a really long time. My mum gave me one and that was like a present this year, um, I was very excited about that, which is a ridiculous statement.

FRIZZELL:

Q82. I guess on that then.

A Yep.

Q83. So, when you did go to the doctor's, if you didn't have a Medicare card.

A Yep.

Q84. How could you do your appointments?

A I paid. I paid in full, um, I know - - -

Q85. Okay. So, as a private patient?

A Yeah. Um, I was - to be honest, I was really cognizant of all the party implications the whole way through, so, I kind of - in hindsight, because of the pressure I was feeling, I made it hard for myself. You know, um, I wouldn't have conversations in person. I would do things via WhatsApp, you know, and that was to sort of so naturally ingrained that it was just - I was so scared of coming forward it was terrifying.

MADDERS:

Q86. Mm-hmm.

A Um, so, I made it, you know, in hindsight I made it a lot harder for myself to verify. I was so stupid. (crying)

Q87. That's okay. It's not stupid, Brittany, it's what you're feeling, okay, mate.

A Yep. I'm okay, sorry.

Are you okay?

FRIZZELL:

And you don't need to apologise at all.

MADDERS:

Q88. You don't have to apologise to us at all, okay.

A I'm okay, I'm ready to go on.

Q89. Are you sure?

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A Yeah.

Q90. Do you want to have a little break?

A No, no, it's fine.

Q91. Okay. All right. So, so, to the best of your recollection, you didn't see a doctor?

A Not for some time, it wasn't until like after the election I don't think.

Q92. Okay.

A Yeah, it was more about the mental health stuff than the physical aspect of anything.

Q93. Yeah. Okay. So, for the actual incident, the sexual assault, you didn't see a doctor for – particularly in regards to that?

A Yep. No.

Q94. Okay. And you touched on it before, you said, part of the reason you were placating Ben, just to make him - - -

A Yeah, feel reassured. He didn't live in Canberra. Um, and we – we'd previously dated.

Q95. Yep.

A Um, and we'd sort of broken up, because he had left, um, but we were still really in constant communication all the time. He's like a good sort of friend and a confidant. Um, and you know, after this for a short time, we sort of briefly rekindled things, but it obviously didn't work out.

Q96. Mm-hmm.

A But yeah, obviously he was concerned about me and so, from afar it was just kind of – he was the only person I'd disclosed stuff to. So, I sort of just placated him, um, about the fact that I was doing the right things in terms of going to a GP. But I just – I – I wasn't up for it, emotionally and physically, I was just kind of trying to protect myself.

Q97. Yeah.

A And just trying to maintain continuity, I guess, like normalising everything, but that doesn't stop it.

Q98. Okay. And so, in Federal Agent PHELAN's notes as well, she has written, "Phillip Medical Centre awaiting results." Do you remember saying that to her?

A Um, I have no idea. Um, I was maybe going to go there, but I never ended up going there.

Q99. Okay.

A Um, I don't think.

Q100. And you mentioned that you –you spoke to Ben quite a bit about – about this?

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A           Yep, that's right.

Q101.       So, we have these portions or these text messages he has supplied to us.

A           Yep.

Q102.       I'll just take the tags off for you. Do you just want to have a read of these messages, just to confirm basically that these are the messages that you did have with him.

A           Yeah.

FRIZZELL:

I don't know if it's all right with printed numbers on before.

MADDERS:

Okay. Yeah.

Q103.       And we've scribbled some notes on those, we might - - -

A           I've got the same text chain, um, I've referred to it a few times.

Q104.       Oh, have you?

A           And just like my dealings with me. It's some kind of weirdly, like I'm very familiar with that portion of the conversation.

Q105.       Okay.

A           So, yep, no, that's - that all will be on my phone as well.

Okay. Awesome. Do you have any questions about the medical?

FRIZZELL:

Q106.       Sorry, bear with me. I think just to clarify, Brittany, when we met with you in Queensland, you gave us consent to get medical records from - is it the Ochre Medical Centre in Kingston?

A           Yeah. They kind of became my regular I guess.

Q107.       Yeah. So, in regards to that, I guess, what kind of information, I guess was disclosed there, or what we would be obtaining from there?

A           Um, I guess that was when I was sort of getting on-going mental health treatment from them. Um, they were - they were after sort of key points of like, stress, when this stuff had come up again. They were prescribing me medication to help me with my mental health. And so, they knew sort of what the inciting factor was. Um, they knew obviously that it had come up again, because of Senate Estimates in twenty nineteen. Um, and when that journalist inquiry came in to AFP media. Um, and so, obviously that was a stressful time. So, they were prescribing me things. So, um, they became like my sort of - my GP, um, while I lived in Canberra, once I kind of got settled, um, yep.

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Q108. Okay, just – sorry, just to clarify, just so I've got it right.  
A Yep.

Q109. The Kingston Medical Centre will be treatment later down the track for your mental well-being. Is that right?  
A Yep, yep.

Q110. Okay. The Phillip Medical Centre, you - - -  
A I don't recall going there, but I think I may have made an appointment there or something, but I just clearly didn't follow through, um - - -

Q111. Yep. Okay. And a morning after pill, there wasn't a morning after pill. Is that right?  
A No, there wasn't a morning after pill.

Q112. Okay. But a pregnancy test in Perth?  
A Yeah, that's right.

Okay. Fine. No further - - -

MADDERS:

Okay. Cool.

Q113. All right, Brittany, so, the next thing is in the previous EIC, you said you had – when you went to work you very cordial or overly cordial I believe your words were.  
A Yeah.

Q114. Just to keep the peace basically with Bruce?  
A Yep, yep.

Q115. Can you just run through that again?  
A Yeah, yeah, of course. Um, I remember the next day was the Monday.

Q116. Yep.  
A Fiona BROWN hadn't gotten there yet. Um, and I didn't – I didn't know – I knew – I was still sort of in that state of shock, I guess. So, in my mind I didn't know if anyone else knew. I was kind of scared about obviously this person sort of – I perceived at the time was sort of in this position of power over me. Um, and so, I was really cognizant of trying to just – just keep things – I just – I didn't want to tap the ice, I was really scared.

Q117. Mm-hmm.  
A Um, and so I remember being nice to him that day. But broadly, for the most part, we didn't really speak. Um, like in terms of just like operational day-to-day work-related stuff. Um, he didn't really approach me, which I remembered.

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- Q118. Mm-hmm.  
A Um, and you know, um, I kind of didn't really actively try and approach him for any like related stuff. Um, and it was kind of like this weird standoff, um, yeah, it was odd. It wasn't sort of adversarial, it was just sort of this weird standoff. Um, and I remember, at one point, he brought me a coffee or something and I think that happened, um, and I thanked him for it. But, um, it was this weird day of just – I don't know, I guess I was still in shock and I hadn't really fully processed what had happened or was ready to deal with it. And so, I just kind of let it play out.
- Q119. Okay. And did that extend into the next day, the twenty-sixth on the Tuesday?  
A I don't think, I think really quickly early on that morning, Fiona came in.
- Q120. Yep.  
A And, you know, suddenly the ice has broken and we were all talking about it, and that's kind of when it really um, I first spoke about it.
- Q121. Yep.  
A Um, and that was when it sort of, you know, as soon as you vocalise something and you share it, um, it becomes real.
- Q122. Yeah.  
A Um, yeah, and so everything sort of changed from that moment on.
- Q123. Okay. And before you went to work on the Monday, do you remember receiving any emails from him?  
A From Bruce?
- Q124. Yeah, from his – to your personal email address?  
A Um, no, not that I recall.
- Q125. Okay. Yep. So, we've downloaded his phone.  
A Right.
- Q126. We did locate an email, a personal email to your – or your personal email address is there as the receiver.  
A Yeah. Right.
- Q127. We can't see the content unfortunately. I'm just wondering if you remember this email at all, it's on the Sunday, the twenty-fourth.  
A No.
- Q128. I wouldn't be surprised if you don't remember, seeing how many emails you probably have like ourselves.  
A Yeah. Um, no, no, I have no idea.
- Q129. Okay. Do you think it would be – you'll have that email still at all potentially?

## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 15

A Potentially, it may be in my junk in-box, I think, um, no, I have no idea what it says.

Q130. Okay. Yep. And like I said, it's a bit of a stab in the dark, seeing it's one email over two years ago.

A No, no, it's okay. No, it's fine.

Q131. And so any – you obviously sent emails to each other, did you send any emails, do you remember during that - - -

A To his private email?

Q132. No, not to his private – sorry, when you're at work?

A Oh, definitely, there would have just been the normal function of the day-to-day, um, yeah, honestly it was this weird holding period where we were just kind of operating like everything was normal.

Q133. Yeah.

A Um, so, yep, definitely there would be back and forth as normal office function goes, definitely.

Okay. Do you have any questions about the emails?

FRIZZELL:

Q134. I guess in a work context, you said, as you're operating normally there would be backwards and forwards emails.

A Yeah.

Q135. And forgive me if we did touch this the first time, I just can't recall.

A Yep.

Q136. I guess your position and his position in the office, what kind of liaising did the two of you have?

A Um, so, technically, um, I was sort of – I was – I was admin, but I was also like the junior media person. So, um, to an extent I would give them sort of like media briefs, if it was only pertaining to their police area. Um, but I was also sort of – at that time, because our office was so new, I was helping establish processes and procedures for the office, just in terms of the fact that there'd never been, you know, a cabinet minister's office before and I'd been in one. So, I was helping set up like sort of the admin stuff. Um, and we had, obviously, he was quite, um, he would boss me around essentially. Um, and I would obviously do tasks for him when he asked me to do them. Um, and that was just sort of the working relationship on the basis of how it always was in that office for that however long it lasted. Um, so, if he had asked me to do something I probably would have done it. Um, because that was just sort of the pecking order and sort of the – Yes, Minister, mentality of those offices. So, probably, um, everything from admin to media clippings I would have given him to, um – oh, pretty much if anyone in the office asked me to do a task, I would have to say, yes, because I was at the bottom of the food chain, um, so, yeah.

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## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 16

Q137. Okay. So, it's not unusual, or it would be common in your role, as not only the junior media adviser, but you'd administer of the area - -  
- ?

A Yep.

Q138. - - - to receive correspondence to and from anyone in that office?  
A Yeah, yeah, I mean it would happen, you know, um, some of the more senior policy guys would leave me alone, because they were very much doing their own thing and didn't need me. But, um, yeah, definitely the two sort of more junior level senior advisers, junior level advisers, um, yeah, they would come to me a lot for stuff all the time.

Q139. And how did you – what was the communication style like within the office?

A Um, the REYNOLDS office was really haphazard and informal. Um, you know, I had my sort of first interview with, you know, um, the team members before I even met Linda REYNOLDS at a bar. So, it was really like a very informal office. And that was just the way, because it was, you know, the three – like primary advisers who Linda REYNOLDS had were all under the age of twenty-eight. Um, so, when I was brought on, I was like the baby new person, who was going to sort of wipe their shoes and look after them. Um, yeah, they definitely sort of – it was very informal, um, and I noticed that from the get-go. It was a completely a different ownership, and that's why – there just weren't the processes, there wasn't the experience or the seniority or, you know, it was just Shamelot. And we didn't have an on-present, like an on-site manager for our office, because she was based – she would fly in and fly out, so she'd be there for sitting weeks. So, really it was just like a bunch of like twenty-eight olds running around the office, and two senior policy advisers for Defence, who would just kind of ignore us. And it was just sort of left for the egos to come around. So, that was just the style of the office, it was weird.

Q140. Yeah.

A Yep.

Q141. So, you just mentioned your interview was such, was with some of the team members at a bar?

A Yeah.

Q142. Can you tell us about that?

A Yeah, of course. Um, so the moment, ah, it was announced by the PM that Steve CIOBO would be – wouldn't be recontesting the election. And he decided the continuity in the Defence portfolios, that you know, um, CIOBO would be booted from cabinet. Instantly, as ministerial advisers we all lost our jobs. Um, and really quickly it became apparent that Linda REYNOLDS was going to be appointed the new Minister for Defence Industry. Um, and as ministerial staffers, we were all personal staff. So, as soon as, you know, your

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boss loses their job, you lose your job as well. So, you know, I'd just moved to Canberra six months before. Um, and I was keen to try and stay on until the election at least. Um, so, I started reaching out to all the media advisers and who I thought was going to be the new Defence Industry Minister, just to touch bases and see like if there was an opening or would they be interested in keeping me on. Um, the person I reached out to, was a woman named, Nikki HAMER. She was and is still Linda REYNOLDS media adviser. And she invited me down on the day that Minister REYNOLDS was signed and sworn in as the new Minister for Defence Industry to the Kingo, Kingston Hotel with her. Herself, Bruce and the other adviser, Jesse WOTTON.

MADDERS:

Q143. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and – and that was where they, like you know, met me, um, sort of gave me sort of a – like it was like a pre-screening, I guess, if I was like a suitable person that they wanted in their office. Before that they would make their recommendation to Linda REYNOLDS to bring me into the team. Um, and that all happened, yeah, at the Kingston Hotel.

FRIZZELL:

Q144. Can you tell us about your meeting with them?

A Yeah, um, we had drinks, um, they sat down, they seemed to kind of like me, I think they liked that I was very clearly eager to please and that I wanted to stay on board and I had taken the initiative to contact Nikki, to see if they wanted someone. It was very clear that Nikki was going to be the new senior and she wanted me to be like her junior person to help like run just the media side of things. Um, and I was – I was happy with that, um, because I thought that, you know, it'd be great to sort of get to just live in Canberra still, because I'd just uprooted my entire life to be here. Um, Nikki and I then left sort and went to the front area of the Kingston Hotel and had a conversation about, um; what the role would entail. Um, and at that point, she said, "Great I'll recommend you." Um, and that was then how I was – before even REYNOLDS got – met with me. Um, she'd already sort of gotten the tip off from the team that they liked me.

Q145. What were your interactions – had you met Bruce prior to that night?  
A Prior to that meeting?

Q146. Yeah.  
A Ah, no, he would have been around in the building. Um, but I didn't know him, no, I'd never formally met him.

Q147. Yeah. What were your interactions with him like that evening?  
A Um, he seemed nice. Um, it was cordial, um, I remember them obviously all – they were quite like – they were sort of, you know, not that much older, they were around my age and they were all very excited that their boss had been elevated. They were about to go up

## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 18

in status as well, be boosted into like these greater roles. And so, they were all very excited to (a) interviewing me and all about their new jobs and like it was this big moment for them, as a team, because they were about to kind of, um, be bumped up. So, yeah, they were jovial, they were nice. Um, they were jokie and informal. Um, yeah, I mean we didn't spend all that much time, the two of us together, but in the group it all seemed very sort of nice.

## MADDERS:

- Q148. Okay. Sorry, I'm just trying to think of my next questions.  
A No, no, that's all good.
- Q149. Would you like to have a break or anything, Brittany?  
A No, no, I'm fine, I'm happy.
- Q150. You're right to keep going?  
A Yeah.
- Q151. Okay. So, in regards to entering Parliament House.  
A Mm-hmm.
- Q152. What is your recollection of entering, because I know there's been a lot in the media about it.  
A Yep.
- Q153. What's your actual recollection of when you entered Parliament House?  
A So, what I recall, um, obviously there's been like a lot of talk and reporting about it, about the facts and things that I've found out since. But what I personally remember.
- Q154. Yep.  
A Um, was him sort of pulling up, saying that he needed to get something.
- Q155. Yep.  
A Um, at that point he paid the fare. Um, and so, naturally I got out of the cab. Um, at that point because it seemed like it was going to be a quick trip, I kind of remember going in with him.
- Q156. Yep.  
A Um, he said something to the effect of, "Oh, just be quiet and we'll make it through security." Or something to that effect or something to that tone. Um, and I remember walking through into there. My thing is, that I always sort of get confused about it, is how he got into the first check-in, if he didn't have his security pass, because apparently – sorry, that's once again not my recollection.
- Q157. That's okay.  
A But yeah, he didn't – I don't know he got through that first gate because he didn't apparently have his security pass, I've found out

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since. So, I don't know how he got in, even the first check-in. Um, but then I remember, at the second check-in, where there are people, um, just signing my name and I remember having difficulty with that.

Q158. Yeah.

A Um, and I remember – I remember seeing the two sort of security guards. Um, I remember going through security. Um, I don't remember having trouble with my shoes, but I've since heard that I was having trouble with my shoes. Um, and then, yeah, we were let – apparently we were let in. In my mind I don't remember another person being there or letting us into the suite, um, but that apparently happened. Um, but to me I just remember some – going from signing my name to then being in sort of the suite. Um, I don't remember being escorted.

Q159. Okay.

A I always thought it was – I always thought he had his pass and he let us through, but that's wrong, um - - -

Q160. And why you say, "That's wrong." Where have you heard that from?

A Um, I guess, ah, just reporting, um, one of the security guards on the night said, that she escorted us in.

Q161. Okay.

A Um, and, you know, she's of sober mind I trust probably hers more than mine because at that time I wasn't in a state, so, um, yeah, yeah. I just – yeah, I just don't remember that.

Q162. Okay. And we spoke about this earlier in the other EIC that we conducted.

A Yes.

Q163. What was your recollection of your intoxication level?

A Oh, very – very like probably the most in my life beyond Schoolies. Um, yeah, you know, I can have casual – like I can have wine now and quite a lot of it and be fine. Um, but that was – yeah, I don't blackout very often or ever really.

Q164. Okay.

A Um, and so, that's I think, a unique feature, I guess.

Q165. Okay. Do you remember stumbling or?

A I did fall over when I was leaving that second venue, because I remember – I remembered that, um, I fell over and I remember he helped me up. And I remember it hurt. (laughs) Because I literally ate it, um, and that was something that I remember. And that was sort of either – it was the impetus for us to leave.

Q166. Yep.

A Because I was a mess. Um, and – and yeah, I couldn't walk. (laughs)



## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 20

Q167. Okay. So, if I was sitting here looking at you when you're so intoxicated, as you're saying.

A Yep.

Q168. How would – would I be able to tell?

A Yeah, probably.

Q169. Okay.

A Yeah. I mean, I think at the point where I can't stand – walk, it wasn't standing, I was walking.

Q170. Yeah, yep.

A Kind of, you know, falling over, can't put on my shoes, barely sign my own name. Um, I think there would have been physical signs, whether it was slurring, whether it was swaying, whether it was something, that you know, I was very visually intoxicated.

Q171. Okay.

A Well, I'd assume, I don't know what I look like drunk.

Q172. Yeah.

A But they should.

Q173. Okay. And you said, you have said, and touched on, that you've been told things about when you went through security.

A Definitely, definitely.

Q174. Okay.

A Yeah, obviously, um, I'd been – it's hard because, you know, I have what I have in terms of memory, which is very limited. Um, and a lot of my information I've kind of got like second-hand from other people, about, you know, being found by security. Like I don't remember that at all.

Q175. Mm-hmm.

A Um, going – being escorted up to the suite. I – I thought he took me up to be honest. Um, even being let in through that first gate, I don't know how that happened. And so, it was just a lot of my information, specifically about that series of events, once from pretty much the second venue onwards, is really informed by a lot of what other people have told me, and that's how I've sort of, um, informed a lot of fill-in the blanks, I guess.

Yeah, okay. I think that's just that sign-in sheet.

FRIZZELL:

Or was it?

MADDERS:

Like I've put it in the front cover.

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Q176. I've got a copy of the – the sign-in sheet.

A Yeah.

Q177. Can you just have a look at it for me.

A Yeah, of course.

Q178. That one here. So, my understanding is when you get a pass out of hours, you have to show ID anyway, so they identify you.

A Mm-hmm. Yes.

Q179. And on the actual system as well.

A Yeah.

Q180. So, and then you also have to sign-in. I'll just show you that. Do you recognise that paper work, it's just a copy of.

A Um, that's not my writing.

Q181. That's not yours?

A No.

Q182. Okay.

A No, he signed us in.

Q183. Okay.

A Yeah, that's not my handwriting.

Q184. Yep. Thanks. But that's what the sign-in sheet does look like?

A Yeah.

Q185. Yep. Okay.

A Yeah, yeah, that's not my writing.

Q186. Yep. And obviously you can't remember the pass number or anything you were given?

A No.

Q187. All righty. So, that's definitely not your writing there?

A No.

Q188. Okay.

A That's not my handwriting.

Okay.

FRIZZELL:

Q189. Do you want to maybe sign that sheet, so that we know that that's the one that you've looked at.

A All right.

MADDERS:

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Q190. Ta. Thanks Brittany. Can you sign and date it for me.  
A Yep. It's the twenty-sixth this day?

Q191. Yes, it's the twenty-sixth of May. Ta. All right. Now, we know one of the things from previous conversations and everything it's been for you to see the CCTV. We're happy to show you the CCTV now. Would you like a break before we do that?

A Yeah.

Okay. Good. So, what we'll do, we'll just - - -

FRIZZELL:

Q192. Just to clarify, like we'll have the break. Do you want to see it?  
A Yeah.

MADDERS:

Q193. Oh, do you? Yeah, sorry, I should have asked that.  
A Yeah, no, it's good.

So, the time is now ten forty-five and this interview is suspended.

ROEIC SUSPENDED AT TEN FORTY-FIVE AM\

ROEIC RESUMED AT ELEVEN SEVENTEEN AM

MADDERS: This is a recommencement of the record of – sorry, the evidence-in-chief interview with Miss Brittany HIGGINS. The time is now eleven seventeen am.

Q194. Okay. Brittany, so, we had a bit of a break there.  
A Yeah.

Q195. During that break did we discuss anything in regards to this investigation?  
A No.

Q196. No. Cool. Prior to the break we said we were going to show you CCTV footage from Parliament House.  
A Yes.

Q197. It's from the morning of the twenty-third of March, twenty nineteen.  
A Okay.

Q198. So, there's a number of files we will show you.  
A Okay.

## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 23

Q199. You can see them as many times as you like.

A Sorry.

Q200. If you want to stop, you just let me know.

A Yep.

Obviously, during the footage you will see Mr LEHRMANN. If that becomes too hard for you, you just let me know, okay.

FRIZZELL:

Q201. Can you see that?

A Yeah, I can thank you.

Well, it's not the best at least - - -

MADDERS:

And so, um - - -

FRIZZELL:

Q202. All right. So, this is the security entrance.

A Mm-hmm.

Q203. So, um, just to clarify, before you spoke of like a check Point One and a check Point Two.

A Yes.

Q204. Is this - - -

A That's check Point Two. So, in check Point One's like that front gate.

Q205. Yep.

A Um, and you usually have to like swipe a pass to get in through that gate, otherwise you dial-in. Um, I don't remember him dialling-in, but he would have had to - to get through. Yep.

Q206. Yeah. Okay. Now, you're right if I hit play?

A Yeah.

## PLAYBACK OF CCTV FOOTAGE

Q207. You can see these doors open.

A Yeah. Um, some other person, who was that guy?

(Knock at door)

MADDERS:

I'll just see where it's up to? Pause it, it's finished now.

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Q208. Do you want to see the next bit?  
A Yes, please.

Q209. Okay. So, the next one is just from a different angle.  
A Yeah, of course.

Q210. Just showing the same entry point and the – so there's three videos on this first bit. Yeah, so, this is just from - I believe it's where the elevator is.  
A Oh, okay. Yeah.

FRIZZELL:

Q211. Can you see that properly?  
A Yeah, I can, thank you.

## PLAYBACK OF CCTV FOOTAGE

MADDERS:

Q212. Are you all right, Brittany?  
A Yeah, yeah.

Q213. Okay. Do you want to see the next bit which is just outside the minister's suite?  
A Sure. (Sniffing)

FRIZZELL:

You don't have to if you don't want to.

MADDERS:

Q214. Yeah, if you don't want to.  
A No, that's fine.

## PLAYBACK OF CCTV FOOTAGE

YATES: (Indistinct)

HIGGINS: Hey?

YATES: (Indistinct)

HIGGINS: Oh, no, it's not – as soon as I cry my nose runs, it's like when more tears flow my nose goes, it's something else.

YATES: Okay.

## PLAYBACK OF CCTV FOOTAGE:

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MADDERS:

Okay. Are we finished?

FRIZZELL:

Yep.

MADDERS:

Okay. So, the next CCTV if you want to see it?

FRIZZELL:

We don't have any more on there.

MADDERS:

Oh, isn't there?

FRIZZELL:

No.

MADDERS:

It didn't copy, okay.

Q215. Sorry, my mistake. The only other one was of you leaving in the morning and that's all.

A Yeah. That's fine.

Q216. Would you like to have a break?

A No.

Q217. Are you sure?

A It's okay.

Q218. All right. So, you've seen the CCTV now.

A Yes.

Q219. Is there anything you'd like to comment on in regards to that?

A Um, no, no – I mean that's obviously very clarifying, um - - -

Q220. That's okay. You don't have to comment. How does it – how does it match up to what you see now to what your recollection is?

A Yeah, it makes sense, um, I didn't know how we got through that first gate and I saw the police officer, oh, I'm sorry, the security guard, um, obviously walked in with us. So, he obviously had to dial in to get him to let us through that first gate to then get to where the CCTV footage started, which is the second gate.

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Q221. Okay.

A So, I saw him come in and that made sense. Bruce clearly didn't have his pass, um, so that first security guard let us in and then obviously at the next check point, then we were signed in, um, yeah, it makes sense, um - - -

Q222. Okay.

A Yeah

All righty. Do you have any questions about it? No.

Q223. Okay. Well, thanks for viewing that, I know that was difficult for you, Brittany, so thank you for actually viewing that for us.

A It's okay.

Q224. We spoke earlier about text messages to Mr DILLAWAY, and we just wanted to confirm - - -

A Yeah, okay.

Q225. - - - that these are actually the messages that you said, which you said, may be on your - - -

A Yeah, they - they are, I've used them since.

Q226. Okay.

A Just for the media, um, but yeah, I've gone back through them, so.

Q227. Yep, sure. If you just don't mind me, and again, if they are the correct ones, if they are from you.

A Yep, yeah.

Q228. Signing and just date. Take your time.

A Yep.

Q229. Is that a full message thread or are there some potentially missing?

A There are some potentially missing.

Q230. Okay.

A Um, you'll have - you have my phone so you'll have the full - - -

Q231. Yep.

A - - - we had sort of a back and forth conversation for those sort of weeks.

Q232. Okay. Oh, okay.

A Um, yeah, because he was helping me with some of the stuff that was happening internally with the building.

Q233. Okay.

A Yeah, so, yeah, this was just the first time that I disclosed it to him in writing, um, and then obviously I got sort of more forthright about everything.

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Q234.     Yep.  
A         Sort of the weeks and stuff that followed. So, yeah, that's all right.

Q235.     Okay. If you just don't mind, just - - -  
A         Yeah, of course.

Q236.     Thanks. Ta, I'll grab my biro off you too.  
A         Oh, sorry.

Q237.     You're right.  
A         Sorry.

Q238.     So, just in regards to some of these messages.  
A         Yeah.

Q239.     Do you mind if we just go through them?  
A         Of course.

Q240.     So, this one on the twenty-sixth of March, when you said, "So, you think you may not be continuing the employment with Linda."  
A         Yep.

Q241.     Who are you talking about there?  
A         Ah, with Linda REYNOLDS.

Q242.     Yep. Okay. And then he asks you, "Did something happen?" And you said, "Yeah, it's pretty bad. I genuinely don't know how it's going to play out, how I want to play - how I want it to play out." What do you mean by that?  
A         Um, I guess what I meant was in terms of - I knew what had happened.

Q243.     Mm-hmm.  
A         But it was about whether I could prosecute the fact that, you know, the assault with Bruce happened.

Q244.     Yeah.  
A         Um, whether I could disclose that to Linda or whether how that would be received given I'd known her and probably met her only a handful of times at that point.

Q245.     Yeah.  
A         Um, and it was just me sort of trying to like broach the subject that beyond our phone call that happened the next morning that more had happened that I had let on.

Q246.     Mm-hmm.  
A         And it was just starting that conversation, so, I guess I was sort of wading my way into the water of trying to disclose what had happened.

## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 28

- Q247. Okay. So, just to remind me, how long had you been working for Minister REYNOLDS by that stage?
- A Um, I'd have to reconfirm but it had probably only been sort of – it'd be under a month.
- Q248. Okay. Yep. So, a very short time?
- A Yeah.
- Q249. And so, there's a message further on, he talks about if you've made a mistake or stuffed up, be honest. Um, and then you say, "So, on Friday night how I ended up in the ministerial office didn't play out how I made it out."
- A Mm-hmm.
- Q250. In regards to that comment you had discussed this previously with him. Is that right?
- A Yeah, the next day in – on the Uber ride home, um, I called him - - -
- Q251. Oh, yep.
- A - - - or, um, we had spoken, he called me or I called him. Um, and I disclosed the fact that I'd gone out and that it had ended up back in the minister's office. Um, and I sort of tried to like play it down, like it wasn't a big deal.
- Q252. Mm-hmm.
- A Um, I didn't disclose the assault. I didn't disclose the fact that, you know, um, any intercourse or anything like that had happened. I just disclosed the fact that we had gone out and ended up back in the minister's office.
- Q253. Yep.
- A Um, and that's all he knew – he had known prior to this conversation.
- Q254. Okay. Yep. And so, then following on from that the conversation says, "I don't remember getting there at all, I vaguely remember Bruce being there and I woke up in the morning half-dressed by myself in the minister's office on the Saturday morning." Is that that conversation you're referring to?
- A Um, yeah, this is me disclosing - - -
- Q255. Yep.
- A - - - but, um, the phone call was different, but yeah, it's me.
- Q256. Yeah. Okay. And then you speak about your dad coming down to see you on the Friday. And then he says, um, "Was it just you and Bruce who went back there or a group of people? And did you hook-up in there or did someone take advantage of you?"
- A Mm-hmm.
- Q257. Do you remember that part of it?
- A Yeah, yep, yes, totally, I've seen the conversation there.



## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 29

**Q258.** Yep. And so, you said, "Yes, it was just Bruce and I from what I recall. I was barely lucid, I really don't feel like it was consensual at all." Followed by the next message was, "I just think if he thought it was okay, why would he just leave me there like that?" Can you just explain what you mean by, "I really don't feel like it was consensual at all."?

**A** Yeah. I guess it was me just starting to go through the process of – other than, I guess Fiona, he was probably- he was the first person I kind of really spoke to about it.

**Q259.** Mm-hmm.

**A** And so I was just starting to come to terms with it myself, the fact that I was raped. Um, and so, it was hard because he was the only person that I trusted, but we'd had a previous relationship, so it was trying to like have a conversation about what had happened with someone who I knew would sort of instantly have feelings about it. And for some reason I was already cognizant of his feelings before I'd even sort of processing my own.

**Q260.** Mm-hmm.

**A** Um, and so, I guess I was softer in my language than what happened, um, yeah.

**Q261.** Okay. And then – I mean the rest of the messages appear quite self-explanatory from that point.

**A** Mm-hmm.

**Q262.** Do you remember – um, because unfortunately these messages are a bit later on, opposed – except for the ones at the start, don't have a time or date stamp on them. Do you - - -

**A** They will have it.

**Q263.** On your phone?

**A** Yeah, definitely. There's times and dates because I've used it in the past hundred days.

**Q264.** Okay.

**A** Yeah.

All right. Thanks. Do you have any questions about the texts?

**FRIZZELL:**

No.

**MADDERS:**

Okay.

**FRIZZELL:**

## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 30

Q265. Sorry, I might actually – having a look at it, just that very first message where you said, “I think I may not continue to be employed with Linda.”

A Yeah.

Q266. What do you mean by that?

A Um, I guess, if I disclosed what had happened, I was scared I was going to lose my job. Um, and I – I just thought I was going to lose my job. Um, and I was still sort of deciding what course of action I would take. And so, it was just me being cognizant of the fact of going to the police and going through the process. Um, I thought I was in that – at some point, I wasn't going to be employed, and I was just relaying those anxieties.

Okay.

MADDERS:

Q267. Okay. Would you like a quick break at all, Brittany?

A No, thank you.

Q268. Okay. The only other one we – we actually have, so, you've said before that at Eighty-eight Mile you don't really have much of that spot recollection.

A Yep, yep.

Q269. Which is fair enough. And I think it's leading to the message here from Ben, saying, “Did you hook-up in there or did someone take advantage of you?”

A Yep.

Q270. We have a witness from Eighty-eight who says that, they saw you and Bruce kissing. Do you have any recollection of that?

A No.

Q271. Okay.

A Um, no.

Q272. That's okay.

A I mean once again I trust a sober mind over mine but I don't recall that.

Q273. Yep. And like we said that's – if you don't recall, you don't recall, it's not a problem.

A Yeah.

Do you have any other questions?

FRIZZELL:

I don't think so.

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## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 31

MADDERS:

Q274. I'll just double-check because you've come all this way down to Canberra to see us, so we don't want to miss our opportunity to talk to you.

A That's okay.

FRIZZELL:

Q275. Is there anything having – it's been a little bit of time since the first evidence-in-chief that we did with you.

A Yes, yeah.

Q276. Is there anything that you recall or thought that might be worth noting?

A Yeah, there was one thing I missed, um, at the start, but I just – it was a throw-away detail, um, I figured. In my first sort of week and a bit, um, Bruce made a pass at me and tried to kiss me.

MADDERS:

Q277. Okay.

A Um, after an event, um, and I didn't really think about it all that much because I kind of rebuffed it and moved on. Um, but yeah, I thought it was worthwhile noting because I realised I hadn't told you that before.

Q278. Yep. What – do you remember the event?

A No, it was during a sitting week, we'd all sort of go out for sort of a team dinner, um, I assumed it would have been a Wednesday, I remember it was at the Kingo. Um, and yeah, he made a pass at me and I didn't think it was a big deal at the time.

Q279. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and I just rebuffed him so I wasn't interested.

Q280. Okay. And when you say, "made a pass," what do you mean?

A He tried to kiss me.

Q281. Okay.

A Um, and it was fine, um, he just kind of took it and left, um, and we never really talked about it again.

Q282. Okay. Do you remember who else was there?

A It would have been the REYNOLDS team, so, it would have been the full team as well, so including the electorate staff. Um, so, it would have been, you know, Nikki HAMER again. Jesse WOTTON again. Um, Michelle LEWIS, who was one of the other electorate staffers. It was – we all used to kind of do dinners on a Wednesday, it was like a team building thing.

Q283. Okay. Oh, yeah.

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## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 32

A Yeah.

Q284. Would it be possible it's that first interaction you had with him at the Kingston Hotel?

A It wasn't that time, but we'd known each other at that point when he tried to make the pass, and I just ignored it and, you know, people try to take shots whenever, um, but he tried and I said, "No."

Q285. Okay. And was that the Kingston Hotel was it?

A Again, yeah.

Q286. In regards to Bruce, were you aware that he was leaving the office, in regards – leaving the portfolio I should say?

A Um, I was aware that he was having issues. There were sort of internal conflicts in the office between him and other staff. Um, I knew there was some sort of security breach that happened. Um, I think he was starting to talk about how he was going to go onto bigger and better things type sort of stuff. Um, so, I didn't know concrete that he was going anywhere.

Q288. Okay.

A Um, yeah.

Okay. Have you got any questions or anything about that incident?

FRIZZELL:

Q289. Yeah. I do, if that's all right.

A Yeah, of course.

Q290. So, you said it was prior to the incident and noting that you'd been in that office for roughly three weeks.

A It was pretty soon into it.

Q291. Now, you said it was during a sitting week, how many times in that three week period or longer in that office had there been a sitting week?

A Ah, it would be very – it would be quite pointed, if I had a sitting calendar for twenty nineteen in front of me, I could pick the date.

Q292. Yep.

A Um, I can't off the top of my head. Um, but it would be pretty clear which week it was.

Q293. Yep. Was there a sitting week more than once during your time in the REYNOLDS office?

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## ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 33

A I don't think so.

Q294. Yep.

A Um, I think we went through like one sitting week period with Senate Estimates. Um, and that was – that was it before – before the assault, um, yep.

Q295. Could you tell me more about – so, you said that Bruce made a pass at you and he tried to kiss you.

A Mm-hmm, yep.

Q296. Could you tell me more about what happened or your recollection of it?

A Yeah. Um, I was leaving, he was leaving, he was about to get into a taxi and he tried to kiss me and I kind of was a bit shocked by it. I'd just broken up with Ben. Um, and you know, I just kind of politely rebuffed him and we never really talked about it again.

Q297. Was there – who was with you at the time that that happened?

A No one, it was just the two of us, we were both leaving, um, and yeah.

Q298. Okay. Was there any conversation had?

A No, not really. I just said, "Oh, I'm not ..... ." And he kind of got it very quickly.

Q299. Yep.

A Um, and yeah, we never spoke about it again.

Q300. How – in terms of how he tried to kiss you, could you tell me more about that?

A Um, I remember I was kind of shocked, because he kind of like just leant forward into my face. Um, but at the same time, I'd had other people in politics make passes at me before, so, it wasn't – it wasn't a massive deal at the time, which is why it was negligible that I kind of didn't even originally really think of it all that much. Um, but yeah, yeah, he lent in and I was shocked and I kind of was like, "No." Um, and he didn't seem to argue with that and he didn't seem angry by it, he was just kind of in his zone and he left immediately after. Um, yeah.

Q301. Was he aware of your relationship with Ben?

A Yep, yeah, I think so. But it had ended, um, before all this happened, but yeah, I think people in the ministerial wing were all aware that we were dating in the prior months.

That's all, okay, for me.

MADDERS:

Q302. Okay. Well, Brittany, I don't think we have anything else we'd like to ask you today. Is there anything else you can think of that maybe relevant?

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A Um, I don't think so, um, that was the only thing that I thought of and I realised I hadn't told you.

Yep.

FRIZZELL:

Q303. Had you – sorry, last question.

A Mm-hmm, yep.

Q304. Bruce trying to kiss you, had you told anyone about that?

A I don't think so. Um, it just – it didn't feel like a big deal at the time.

Q305. Yep.

A Um, yeah, and I – I – yeah, at that point I didn't mind him, because I didn't want to embarrass him, I don't think. Like it was just – I don't know, ah, a mixed signal type thing and I was like, "Oh, okay. It must have been something I did." Um, and yeah, it was – I don't think I talked about it. There might be something in my phone, I'm not sure, but I don't think I would have done that.

Q306. Yep. And sorry, so you were outside you said he got into a taxi.

A Yeah.

Q307. And what were you doing?

A I was leaving going home.

Q308. Okay. How – like what was your mode of transport?

A Probably an Uber.

Q309. An Uber?

A Yeah, yeah.

Q310. Sorry, and Bruce was in a taxi?

A Yep.

Okay. Now I have no more.

MADDERS:

Q311. All right, Brittany. So, thank you very much for going through all that today with us.

A That's okay.

Q312. If you do have anything else that you wish to add you can always reach out to us and tell us, okay.

A Okay.

Q313. If we do need to speak to you again, is that okay?

A Yes.

**ROEIC BETWEEN MADDERS/HIGGINS... CONTINUED ... PAGE 35**

All right, good. All right, has ..... All right, so, if there's nothing else you can think of that you'd like to talk to us about, we'll – we'll conclude this evidence-in-chief interview. The time is now eleven fifty-three am. And this interview is concluded.

**ROEIC CONCLUDED AT ELEVEN FIFTY-THREE AM**

