

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 FIVE ARTHUR BUTLER PARADE, BILINGA, QUEENSLAND ON WEDNESDAY, TWENTY-FOUR FEBRUARY TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE

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

TIME COMMENCED: TWO THIRTY-ONE PM

MADDERS: This is an evidence-in-chief interview between Detective Leading Senior Constable Trent MADDERS and Miss Brittany HIGGINS, conducted at five Arthur Butler Parade, Bilinga in Queensland on Wednesday, twenty-fourth of February, twenty twenty-one. The time is now two thirty-one pm, sorry, one thirty-one pm. And the 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, and Brittany is twenty-six years of age. Also present for Brittany is her support person, David.

Q1. So, Brittany, we're just going to talk today and everything we talk about is being video and audio recorded, okay. Now we just have some ground rules before we get into the interview all right. So, it's important that you understand that any statement or answer you may care to make during the conversation today, has to be true to the best of 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 that?

A No audible reply.

Q2. If you don't mind if you answer just a verbal answer just for the audio that's all.

A Yep, yes.

Q3. Thank you, Brittany. If you knowingly state anything false or anything you do not believe to be true and it is tendered in evidence you may be liable to prosecution. Do you understand?

A Yes.

Q4. Do you clearly understand what I've just explained to you?

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- A Yes.
- Q5. Cool. So, it's important that you tell me everything you can remember, even things you don't think are important, all right.
- A Yes.
- Q6. I don't want you to guess or make anything up, but just do the best to tell me what you do remember, alright.
- A Okay.
- Q7. If you don't remember something and I ask you, you can say it's okay to say, "I don't know," or "I don't remember." Alright. The same, if I ask you a question more than once, it doesn't mean I want you to change your answer, I'm just asking it in a different way for myself, alright.
- A Yes.
- Q8. And if I ask you a question and you don't know what I'm talking about, you can say, Trent, I have no idea what you're on about, okay.
- A Okay.
- Q9. It's important that you use your own words when describing things to me, and if that includes swearing or anything like that then please feel free to do so.
- A Okay.
- Q10. If you do need a break at any stage just let me know, okay.
- A Okay.
- Q11. And Emma and I will be writing while we're talking to you - - -
- A Of course.
- Q12. - - - but we're - we're still listening to what you're saying okay, it's just to jog our memories. All right, Brittany, so, just taking as long as you need and in as much detail as you can, tell me what you've come to talk to me about today?
- A Um, so, it's in relation to, um, a sexual assault that occurred to me on the twenty-second of March/twenty-third March in twenty nineteen.
- Q13. Mm-hmm.
- A Um, so, it started with, um, a night out with some colleagues. We went to a venue called, The Dock.
- Q14. Mm-hmm.
- A Um, a lot of them were Defence Industry contractors or, um, departmental officials in the Department of Defence. Um, I had recently just joined the new Ministerial office of Linda REYNOLDS, um, I'd been there all of three weeks. And I thought I could add value to the team by connecting them with these Defence Industry types and extended an invitation to the office.

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Q15. Yes.

A And for me this was kind of like an opportunity to sort of add value because, you know, there weren't very many of us who made it from my former office into the new Ministerial Defence Industry office, and so, I found ways to connect these people. Um, so, we went to a venue called, The Dock. There was a group of probably about twenty-five of us.

Q16. Mm-hmm.

A Um, I had a Bumble date, who was coming to meet me, um, I invited him along. I said I was having drinks with some friends and he was more than welcome to come along and meet them in a manner of speaking. Um, I don't remember who he was, it wasn't a -- we were just kind of chatting casually in Bumble and I invited him. I think he works in the department, I could probably find out maybe through Bumble if I can rematch or something. Um, but yeah, I invited this guy to come with me. Um, in that group of people there was a few Ministerial staffers as well. Um, one works for the Minister of Home Affairs, Peter DUTTON, he's one of his media advisors, his name is Austin WENKE, W-E-N-K-E. Um, there was a former Minister CHOBO staffer, named, Lauren GAIN, um, she was there. And she's probably one of the closest people who was at the event to me. Um, the rest were sort of just broad connections I had just because of working and net-working. Um, - - -

FRIZZELL:

Q17. Sorry, was that Laurie or Lora?

A Lauren, Lauren. Um, outside of that, um, the ADC to the Chief of Navy was there, his name is Ben COUCH. Um, Captain Nikita IRVINE has there. Um, she also used to be the ADC for both Minister REYNOLDS and Minister CHOBO. Um, and then there were a host of other people who'd worked in between the Department of Defence and the Ministerial offices of Parliament House who were there. And I could probably go through or find them by Facebook, um, and get those specific names of those people.

Yes.

MADDERS:

Q18. Mm-hmm.

A Um, but yeah, there was quite a big group of us at that point in time. Um, so, we were at The Dock it was the sort of the first venue we were at and we were sort of lamenting the fact because we'd all sort of worked broadly with the Coalition Government at some point in some duration that we were about to lose the election. We all internally knew that there was an election going on.

Q19. Mm-hmm.

A Or that it was about to be called. Um, and so we were sort of drinking, lamenting the fact that we were all about to lose our jobs.

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And that was the general tone of the night, it was we were going in with this sort of idea that, you know, um, we were all about to be unemployed in six weeks and so we were pretty sad.

Q20. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and that was sort of why we were all drinking so much. Um, and we weren't really eating all that much. Um, so, at that point – am I allowed to name him by name or is that inappropriate?

Q21. Yep, yep, yep.

A Yep, okay. So, the person in question is a former colleague of mine named Bruce LEHRMANN.

Q22. Mm-hmm.

A Um, he was more established in the office than I was. He had been sort of, um, a long standing member of Minister REYNOLDS team and I was really new. And I had sort of a strange adversarial relationship with him. Um, he was sort of trying to sort of carve out space in the new office and was quite territorial about new people coming in.

Q23. Mm-hmm.

A

[REDACTED]

So, we had a strange relationship, so it was good that he was coming, I thought I could add value, smooth over, show that he had these connections as well, that no one's coming to encroach on his space and that this was sort of just like a nice opportunity for everyone to get together. And that's sort of the context of the scene at the time. Um, my poor Tinder date, his name – oh, sorry, Bumble date, um, his name I do not remember. Ah, he came in a suit, um, and was bullied mercilessly by everyone at the event, um, they were all poking fun at him and laughing at him. And he pretty quickly was sort of driven out of the event, probably within two hours. He wasn't there very long.

Q24. Mm-hmm.

A Um, yeah, I think because everyone in that group had like – you know, everyone sort of had this weirdly high opinion of themselves on the basis that, you know, they worked either in Parliament or in Defence in some sort of position that they sort of perceived to be important. They were very mean to him so he left. Um, and at a certain point probably a couple of hours into the night, um, it seemed to be going quite well. I think Bruce was broadly quite responsive, the fact that I'd invited him along to this opportunity to meet and network with these people.

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Q25. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and he was buying me a lot of drinks. I, at the time, thought that we were sort of all drinking to the same level or we were having drink for drink. Um, later I'm not as sure about that account, um, because I heard that he wasn't as inebriated as I was.

Q26. Mm-hmm.

A Um, but we were all sort of – we broke down to a smaller group, and at that point, it was Minister DUTTON's media advisor, Austin. It was Lauren, who's the former CHOBO staffer, myself and Bruce. And we all went to a second venue, which is called, Eighty-Eight Miles Per Hour which is in Civic in Canberra. Um, at that point I was really, really, really inebriated to the point where it's – I mean, I do social drink.

Q27. Mm-hmm.

A  But I was very, very drunk. Um, and so, it was just the four of us at that event, um, at Eighty-Eight Miles Per Hour. And at that point I fell over, um, I grazed my knee. Um, and that's kind of when it really hit me how drunk I was.

Q28. Mm-hmm.

A Um, I know I remember just being cognizant of the fact that, you know, this is sort of the people that I kind of knew but I knew them in a work context and so, I was pretty embarrassed by falling over. Um, I remember after I fell over, Bruce helped me up. Um, I thought it was sort of like – I don't know, I just thought we were sort of getting to a point where it was a better relationship. I mean because it had been so adversarial. Um, and so, I was broadly quite accepting of his help.

Q29. Mm-hmm.

A Um, I'm not sure what time it was, but the suggestion was made that we should leave. Um, so, Austin and Lauren lived in one direction, which was down by the Foreshore. And at that time I lived in the outer suburbs of Canberra, so, I lived sort of out in Woden. Um, and so they were going in the same cab because they lived sort of near each other. And I don't exactly remember who brought it up, but at that point, the suggestion was made that Bruce and I should go together. Um, and – and I got in the cab with him.

Q30. Mm-hmm.

A Um, I don't specifically remember sort of the words that were said, but it was sort of something along the lines of, "I have to stop in and pick something up from work." Um, and I – I wasn't really cognizant, I wasn't fully in a state where I was sort of argumentative. I was really open to suggestion. Um, and so, at that point I was broadly – it

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didn't seem inconceivable to go to Parliament, it felt like a safe space for me and I didn't say, "No," to going to Parliament.

Q31. Yep.

A Yeah. Um, we made it to Parliament. Um, he paid the fare to my understanding. Um, and at that point, he got out and because he paid the fare, it was sort of the choice of standing on the side in the dark at Parliament House or going inside. And I just – I didn't have sort of all my devices about me and I look back and I just – I look back and obviously I question it all now, but at the time it didn't seem unsafe, it didn't seem like a situation that was dangerous, it felt like I was just going into work for a second with a colleague and it didn't feel, um, yeah, it didn't feel dangerous. Um, I didn't have my staff pass on, obviously I was sort of in like this white cocktail dress, because for me, it was sort of like this night out.

Q32. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and I don't know if he had his pass on, but obviously we got in through that front entrance. And I don't know whether he called into security or requested that to happen or if he had a pass, I'm not exactly sure, I don't really remember.

Q33. Yeah.

A Um, and yes, so, sorry, once I kind of get to this point, my memory isn't the best of that night really. Um, this is sort of just what I've pieced together over time what I think happened. Um, so, we went through to the – through the Ministerial entrance of Parliament House and that's sort of at the back opposite end, um, and that's sort of where the ministers and all senior advisors park their cars. So, we went through there and I remember him saying something to the effect of, "Just be quiet otherwise they won't let you in." And, you know, I just – I thought he was only going in for a second, so it didn't seem unreasonable. I was quite out of it myself, um and I just wanted to stay quiet. Um, we were greeted by sort of the two security guards who sit at the ministerial entrance of Parliament House. Um, and I remember trying to sign my name, and I remember finding it difficult or I remember hearing that I wasn't able to write my name. And I don't know if that's a formed memory over time, but there was something about me being so drunk that I couldn't sign my own name.

Q34. Mm-hmm.

A So, you know, I was falling all over the place, I fell over at Parliament, I couldn't sign my own name. I was quite out of it. Um, at that point, I've heard more recently that we were let into Parliament House. I don't really remember interacting with security guards and them letting me into the suite, I just remember then being in the suite. So, I don't really remember how I went from sort of the entrance to the actual Minister REYNOLDS suite.

Q35. Mm-hmm.

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A Yeah, but I do remember sort of having to try and sign my own name and kind of getting in through the suite. Um, at that point, sort of the next sort of key memory I have is sitting on – we have like these windows that open out onto the sort of the minister's – the Prime Minister's courtyard.

Q36. Mm-hmm.

A I remember sitting on one of the ledges there. Um, and – and then I don't remember whether I went to the couch myself willingly or if I was guided there or – or sort of what happened. But I remember, the next thing I sort of remember was being on the couch as he was raping me. Um, and at that point, I felt like a bit of time had passed. I felt like – I felt like he was almost finished. I felt like it had been going on for a while. The first thing that I sort of woke up to, was a pain in my leg, that was the first thing that I think sort of made me sort of cotton on to the fact or sort of knocked me awake essentially. Um, and at that point, he was sort of – so, the Minister's couch faces into sort of her like office, um, and I know my head was sort of at the top end closest to the door. And I was sort of wedged into the corner of the couch, he had his knee on my thigh. And that was sort of – I was stuck in the corner and I couldn't get him off me. Um, at this point, I was crying throughout the entire process. Um, yep., and so he was – he was on top of me. Um, I said, "No," at least half a dozen times. Um, he did not stop, he kept going. To my knowledge he finished, but I'm not exactly sure. I don't know if he used a condom. I don't remember seeing his penis beforehand. I don't – I can't – I don't have any sort of identifying things that I can give you about him. Um, I just sort of - from being on the bench just suddenly being on the couch and being stuck. Those are sort of the two key memories that I have about that. Um, I remember eventually he stopped, he'd finished, it ended, which I've always assumed has meant that he finished in me, but I'm not sure. Um, and he looked at me and he left. I couldn't get up off the couch, um, and I passed out for – until the next day. The next thing I remember, I was, um, waking up in the Minister's office, it was probably about eight o'clock the next day. And I remember hearing a female security guard yelling into the office, asking if I was okay. I didn't see anyone, um, but I heard her yell out. And at that point my first thought wasn't sort of about the assault, it wasn't about Bruce, it wasn't about – my first instinct of just jogging out of sort of being so heavy and inebriated was just, "I'm at work, I'm at work." And that was my first sort of thought that went through my head. Um, I sat in the office for probably about an hour and a half and I cried.

Q37. Mm-hmm.

A Um, there was a box of Roses chocolates and I ate most of it, I was then sick at some point in the Minister's bathroom. Um, I combed my hair and pulled myself together and I borrowed one of her – she had like this box of goodwill stuff that she wanted me to take. Um, and I put on one of her Carla Zampatti jackets over the top of my stuff, ah, over the top of my dress. And eventually, sort of after

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about an hour and a half or so, I kind of collected myself and I went and left.

Q38. Mm-hmm.

A Um, I walked down through the same entrance that I came in through, which is the ministerial entrance. Um, I didn't make – I didn't talk to the security guards, but we had – it was an awkward sort of walking – walking past them because I knew they were looking at me and I kind of felt like they'd felt stressed and scared and embarrassed and it was just – yep. So, I walked past them, um, and I probably – it was about ten o'clock it when I actually got an Uber to leave Parliament House. And at that point I'm at home. Um, I lived out at Lyons near Woden. Um, and I saw my room-mate and her friend, it was the first time I'd met that friend, they introduced me to her. I said that I'd been at Parliament. Um, and that I'd ended up back at Parliament after a good night out. They thought it was weird. And I spent the entire weekend sort of bunkered down, sort of essentially in hysterics crying. Um, I came out into look for food but pretty much I was just shell shocked by what had happened. And I didn't really have a support network in Canberra, I didn't really know anyone. Um, and so, I was just sort of processing, um, yeah. And I – I – I think the next person I sort of had contact with, sort of about broadly the assault was an ex-boyfriend of mine.

Q39. Mm-hmm.

A Um, he sort of asked how – how the weekend was, and I just said, that you know, um, "I'd gone out and ended up back at Parliament." And he said something to the effect, because he's worked sort of in Parliament House. And so he thought, "Oh, wow, that's really wild, I can't believe you guys went back there." Um, I didn't say I was assaulted to him. The first person I probably told was Fiona BROWN on the Tuesday at work. So, the Monday was kind of like a strange day of this weird calm before the storm, because I knew that I'd stayed there overnight, and I knew that that would constitute a security breach of some effect.

Q40. Mm-hmm.

A You know, we get like little tickets even if you're – if you like leave your computer open for a time, well, like you get like a little ticket.

Q41. Yeah.

A And I knew that obviously me being there overnight, I knew that would ring a bell, that someone would have to check in on that situation at some point. And so, I was kind of waiting for the other shoe to drop. Um, and it never did on the Monday. Um, on the Tuesday, Fiona BROWN came in. Um, she sort of said in front of the bull pit, which is where we all kind of sit, that she had to speak to Bruce and I that day. Um, she took Bruce in first, it was probably about forty-five minutes of them speaking.

Q42. Mm-hmm.

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A Um, and then at that point, he immediately packed up his stuff and left. At that point, I then went into speak with Fiona. And it was the first time that I'd sort of relayed the events. And, you know, I was sort of – hadn't even fully internalised it to myself what had happened. Like I get – I'm quite sort of like a stoic person by nature, under pressure, I kind of just freeze up.

Q43. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and so it was the first time I'd really sat there and thought about, you know, fundamentally what had happened. And I told her and she was the first person I told. Um, and after that I had sort of a bit of breakdown. Um, and I re-signed the Ministerial Code of Conduct, and she sent me home for the rest of the day. So, she was the first person I actually verbalised the rape to you. Um, and you know, in staffing culture, it's not super strange to have people sort of coming and going and being fired, it's the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy type thing, you just don't want to get involved. And so, there's not like this inquisitive nature about people, about why Bruce had packed up or why Brittany left in hysterics. There was no – no one asks you these sort of questions. They don't want to know, they don't want to get involved, they don't want to tarnish their career. And so, you know, it was already so ingrained in me this sort of culture of silence, where I really didn't tell people outside of the party. I was already sort of there, I felt really isolated. My family weren't in Canberra, I didn't know anyone in Canberra. Um, and so, yeah, I felt like it was sort of like this – I didn't know who to tell. I didn't – I didn't know how to action it all to do, and yeah. So, that's sort of fundamentally the primary basis of why I'm here, um, that's what happened.

Q44. Okay. Okay. Well, thank you, Brittany for going through all that. Do you want to have a break or anything, mate? Are you right to keep going for a bit?

A Yeah.

Q45. All right. If you do wish to have a break just again, let us know all right.

A Yep.

Q46. So, I'll just – Emma and I will just ask some questions now, just to clarify a few things. So, you said this incident occurred on the twenty-second, twenty-third of March, two thousand and nineteen. Is that right?

A Yeah, it was the Friday/Saturday night, I think it was the twenty-second or twenty-third, I'm speaking off the top of my head but it is -
--

Q47. Yeah, yep. Okay. So, and if I get anything incorrect just correct me okay. Um, you said you'd organised a night out for everyone – well, not a night out but some drinks?

A Yeah, it was already sort of half an established regular occurrence, these Defence Industry people getting together, but I invited some

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more ministerial people into that group. But yeah, I kind of helped get more people there.

- Q48. Okay. And do you remember how you organised that?
A Um, it was via WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, Messenger, just all the various sort of devices that random people use, because some people use some and some didn't.
- Q49. Oh, okay. Yep, I see. And then you went to the – The Dock is that right?
A Yeah.
- Q50. So, where's The Dock, because I don't know where it is.
A Um, it's on the Kingston Foreshore and it's one of the bars, like the sports bars that's just sort of is along the front.
- Q51. Yep.
A Yeah.
- Q52. And do you remember what time you got there?
A Um, it was after work so I think I probably would have – I don't figuratively know but I think it was around sort of seven, seven thirty-ish.
- Q53. Okay.
A Yeah.
- Q54. And just take me through again, what happened while you were there?
A Um, so I got there and I was sort of in the first group of about sort of six people who were there. Um, and I told them that I had a Tinder date or a Bumble date coming, um, and they were all teasing me about it, because I'd recently sort of broken up with, um, a person that they all knew, who use to work in Parliament House. And so they were all very happy for me to be getting back on the horse type of thing. Um, yeah. Um, so, they were all sort of waiting to meet this person that I was going to be sort of out on a date with in front of them, that they all thought was quite funny. Um, yeah. And so, the Defence Industry contacts were all there kind of first, and then later on is when Bruce and Austin arrived.
- Q55. Okay.
A Yeah.
- Q56. Sorry, what was Austin's surname again?
A Ah, WENKE, W-E-N-K-E.
- Q57. Oh, WENKE, yeah. And were you having drinks at that stage?
A Yeah.
- Q58. What were you drinking that night?

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A Um, I remember we ultimately kind of did the full gauntlet of drinks by the end of the night. I think at the start I was just having Vodka Lime and Sodas. Um, we had like chips to share at the table. Um, yeah, we didn't have – we didn't order like main meals or anything it was just more like a social drinks thing.

Q59. Okay.

A Yeah.

Q60. So, sorry, what was the drink you had?

A Ah, Vodka Lime and Soda.

Q61. Vodka Lime and Soda. Do you know how many you had?

A Before Bruce got there?

Q62. Yeah.

A Um, maybe two before Bruce got there.

Q63. Okay. And what sort of timeframe was that in?

A Ah, in about two hours.

Q64. Okay.

A Because they got there a little bit later than everyone else.

Q65. All right.

A Yeah.

Do you have any questions Emma?

FRIZZELL: I might just ask a couple if that's all right?

MADDERS: Yes.

FRIZZELL:

Q66. Now you said that you have messaged on a few different applications, the Messenger, Signal, WhatsApp.

A Yep.

Q67. That these were a fairly regular kind of thing. Is that right?

A Yeah, yeah.

Q68. Yep. How did you decide who was coming along, who were you extending that invitation to?

A Um, well, I was kind of more a tack-on to their group, so, they have this pretty existing group of people who would always go out for drinks and I'd recently sort of – they'd let me sort of join their group on the basis that I didn't really know people. Um, and then I tried to sort of invite my Parliament House people to come along. So, um, so they already had their like established drinks and I was just sort of coming along and trying to bring more people in. Um, - - -

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Q69. Can you tell me more about the pre-existing group?
 A Yeah, um, so, yeah, one was sort of ADC for the Chief of Navy. One was – they're all sort of inside the Department of Defence. I could probably go through like my Facebook and find their actual sort of names. But they're not close friends of mine, they were just all like professional contacts who knew that I worked in the Defence Industry Minister's office and was just broadly accepting me being there because it was kind of nice. Um, yeah, and so, - so, there was Ben COUCH who was there, there was Nikita, there was Lauren, there was – um, this guy who used to work for, um, Christopher PYNE and now was back in the Defence Minister's – um, Department of Defence, Joseph MCKAY. Um, there was – they have like a sort of an existing friend group that are all sort of there still to this day, really close, but obviously after this event sort of – um, I'd dropped out and sort of stopped socialising probably – yeah. And I could find – I could find their names for you, yeah.

Q70. That'd be great. How did you come about being a part of that group?
 A Ah, I knew Lauren through Minister CHOBO's office.

Q71. Yep.
 A Um, and she knew that I didn't have very many contacts left in Parliament after a lot of that old team were fired. So, she kind of just invited me out and to sort of hang out with her because she had recently moved back down to Canberra. She used to be sort of Gold Coast based sometimes. Um, and so, she just sort of wanted to invite me out and include me in that friendship group.

Q72. Okay. And then you extended the invitation?
 A Yes, I did.

Q73. Who did you extend the invitation to?
 A Ah, to Austin and Bruce.

Okay. That's all for me on this point.

MADDERS:

Q74. Okay. Now, Brittany you said you were meeting this guy, this Bumble date?
 A Yes.

Q75. So, what's Bumble, can you explain that to me?
 A Ah, Bumble is a dating app, it's kind of meant to be like a silent or dignified one than Tinder on the basis that you have to give all the details about you and it connects to your social media accounts as well.

Q76. Yep.
 A So, you have to sort of verify that you've got like Facebook and Instagram, but it also sort of shows where you work, so you're not

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like a stalker or someone, you know, an unknown entity. Um, so, yeah, that's what Bumble is.

Q77. Okay. And do you remember anything about this – this fellow?
A He worked at one of the department's, um, he wasn't particularly high up in any of the departments and I think he kind of was bit noting himself to the table and all these people kind of picked him apart because, you know, they were all quite brutal.

Q78. How's that?
A They're good people mostly, but you know, they've got a very high opinion of sort of what we do or what – sorry, what we all used to do. Um, and so they kind of – he came up in a suit and a tie and they were all really relaxed and they just were broadly really mean to him. Um, yeah, he didn't stay very long.

Q79. Okay. Do you remember how long when he arrived, how long you'd been there for?
A How long I'd been there for?

Q80. Yeah.
A Um, probably about an hour or so.

Q81. Okay.
A Yeah.

Q82. And are you able to physically describe him at all?
A No, I never messaged him afterwards.

Q83. Okay.
A He was kind of just a person I invited and then, you know, obviously after the assault I just dropped off the planet essentially.

Q84. Yeah.
A Um, and I never got back to him and he never got back to me.

Q85. Okay.
A He seemed quite fit, he seemed quite tall. He had brown hair, he wasn't wearing glasses or anything. Um, but I can't really remember beyond that. I just remember the suit.

Q86. Yep. What colour was his suit, do you remember?
A I think it was a blue.

Q87. Okay.
A Yeah.

Q88. Like a dark blue?
A Yeah, like a navy blue I think.

Q89. Yeah. All right. And so you said that Bruce and Austin turned up a bit later. Is that right?

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A Yeah, to my understanding they'd gone to the Kingo or the Kingston Hotel beforehand and had already had dinner there or something, they'd already been to the Kingston Hotel.

Q90. Okay.

A Yep.

Q91. Did they tell you that on the night or?

A Um, I think they may have relayed to me via WhatsApp or text or Signal, but I – I felt like I'd already had that information or somehow I had that information, but that was my impression at the time that they were coming from there.

Q92. Okay.

A I don't know what grounds it was on to be honest.

Q93. That's all right.

A Yeah.

Q94. So, when Bruce and Austin turned up, what happened?

A Um, we introduced them to the table. Um, and so we had sort of like one of the long tables at The Dock, and that kind of fits about sort of ten to twelve people, it's quite a large table.

Q95. Mm-hmm.

A Um, but when they sort of joined they couldn't fit on the large table so they pulled up sort of one of those little circle smaller tables that sort of accommodate four people.

Q96. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and they sort of sat there.

Q97. And while they were there did you interact with both of them?

A Yeah, yeah, definitely, um, I spoke with both of them, I introduced them to Lauren, because at that point, Lauren hadn't met Austin or Bruce at that point. Um, and she was really lovely, she was like a former ministerial staffer, so they had so much in common. Um, and they all really liked - - -

Q98. Okay. Yep. And in regards to your interactions with Bruce.

A Yep.

Q99. What was it like at The Dock?

A Um, I think he was just grateful to be there and he was quite friendly, it was the nicest he'd ever sort of been to me.

Q100. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and yeah, had seemed quite, you know, um, congenial, he seemed quite friendly I suppose.

Q101. Okay. Were you in a drinks shout or anything like that?

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A I remember them buying us rounds of drinks, um, I don't think I paid for any drinks.

Q102. Okay.

A Yeah, so, I've looked back at my credit card – my like debit card and I didn't really buy any drinks for myself that night beyond the first two.

Q103. Okay.

A But I was drinking consistently throughout the night, so people were buying me drinks.

Q104. Mm-hmm. And the drinks, do you remember what the drinks you were buying – oh, drinking, sorry?

A Um, I think they sort of – I think we did the gauntlet, I think by the time we went to the next venue, we'd even done shots, I feel like I vaguely remember, so there was a lot of alcohol involved.

Q105. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and I think it went from everything from sort of like a Rum and Coke all the way through to the Soda. I think there was a lot of rounds of a lot of different things.

Q106. Okay. Yeah. Was that at The Dock or?

A It started at The Dock, um, and then continued onto the next venue.

Okay. Have you got any questions Em?

FRIZZELL:

Q107. Yeah, I might. Oh, it's just some general ones if you don't mind.

A Yeah, of course.

Q108. So, you did mention before that you were wearing a white dress?

A Yep.

Q109. Could you please describe to me what it was that you were wearing that day?

A Um, to work or just to the second place?

Q110. To the second place.

A Yeah. So, it was like a – it's like a white cocktail dress that comes just below the knee, um, it has like sort of these spaghetti straps, it's got like a square neckline. Um, yeah, it's like a little pencil dress. Um, I – I didn't – I wasn't wearing anything of the top of it, it was just the pencil dress. And I had, I think, nude heels on, like nude Nine West heels, um, I've got ten different pairs of the same heel that I wear for work and I wore those.

Q111. How did you have your hair done?

A Um, I think it was just back and straight.

Q112. Yep. Do you recall what Bruce was wearing that night?

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A Ah, I think he was still in his work clothes, I don't specifically sort of remember, I think he was in a suit still, I don't really remember.

Q113. Can you describe what he looks like in general?

A Yeah, um, so, he has dark hair, he wears square glasses. Um, he is slightly like, you know, like slightly, slightly the weight for his frame I guess, very slightly. Um, and he has dimples, um, he, um, I don't know what clothes either. Um, he's got a Caucasian complexion. Um, and yeah, he sort of always wore the RM boots, the standard sort of Liberal attire where it's like, you know, the suit and the – you know, the sort of Polo, Ralph Lauren shirts and like the full gauntlet of all the sort of everything put together. Um, you know, he dressed up.

Q114. Okay. And do you know how old he was?

A No, no. I think he was sort of the same age as me, um, but it was – I'm not really sure.

Q115. And what was his position in your workplace compared to you?

A Yeah, so, he was an advisor, um, so, he was a policy advisor for the Home Affairs space. Um, and I was, um, admin and I was also a media assistant, so, I did sort of both, um, yeah. So, I guess in staffing terms, you go from being sort of admin to an assistant – you go from admin, ah, office manager, assistant advisor, advisor, senior advisor, chief of staff to the minister and that's the office structure. So, because Minister REYNOLDS came from an Assistant Minister background, she didn't have any allocation for senior advisors. So, he was the most senior advisor that she had pre-existing before she came into the new portfolio. So, the disparity between him and me was huge, he was, um, yeah, she had known him for a really long time and I was only the admin girl for three weeks – I was very disposable.

Q116. So, in regards to the workplace and yourself and Bruce.

A Yeah.

Q117. I guess, could you describe what the layout of the workplace was, was it like, I guess – were you working in an open floor kind of area, did you interact very often?

A Um, yeah, so we sort of – the admin desk is at the front and I was there some of the time. Um, and then you've got the Chief of Staff's office. The main Minister's office and then you've sort of got the full like, ah, bull pit, where like everyone's offices are. So, um, that's where most the Defence Industry advisors are, whether it was the – you know, um, whether you were sort of looking after the F Forty Fives or whether you're looking after the subs or the Navy, but they were all sort of stationed there. We also had our DLO, the Department Liaison Officer, um, and they had their own sort of separate room. Um, so there was one from the Department of Defence and then Nikita Captain, Nikita IRVINE, who was the ADC, which is the Aide-de-Comp to the minister. So, they had their own separate room. We then had a secure room which had sort of

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printing and classified documentation there, but it was always locked, like there was a big massive lock. Um, and then Bruce had his own space around the corner, so, he's had sort of like three desks put together and was very much staking out this back corner space that he wanted to make his own. Um, there used to be a fridge there and there was big arguments between the advisors, the positioning of the fridge, and I was the poor person who had to lug the fridge between the spots because I was the smallest person in the room and they were just arguing and having a big fight about territory, and I was just sort of the executor of the will of the people in the office. Um, yeah, so, he actually was around the corner and I was sort of at the front.

Q118. Okay. So, you mentioned before that you had what you referred to as a strange adversarial relationship with Bruce.

A Yep.

Q119. Could you tell me more about that?

A Yeah, um, I think it was just – so, I was doing a lot of the groundwork for the office, I helped the Minister move all her stuff from her old Senate office to the actual Ministerial office and everyone else was just sort of like dealing with the broad policy matters or starting to get organised in terms of all the actual, um, documentation. So, I was kind of the – the person that people would tack on and put requests to.

m, yeah, so, he was nice to me sometimes and sometimes buy me coffee, but at the same time, you know, he would sort of get me to manage all these bits that are outside my job and I did them on the basis that – you know, I don't know, but sort of being a ministerial staffer, like the roles are all sort of blurred and you just do what's asked of you. And so, he was someone that I perceived to be sort of above me in station and so I did what was asked, yeah.

Q120. Okay. So, having just said that he would sometimes buy you coffee?

A Yep.

Q121. Yeah, could you tell me about that?

A Yeah. Um, sometimes, um, he would go down to this sort of place called, "Aussies," and if everything was right, he'd bring me back a coffee.

Q123. Could you tell me about that?

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A



Um, yeah, so, Fiona knew that there was sort of tensions in the office. And that's not, um, strange given you know, we'd all sort of just been clumped together and we were all sort of fighting for space, given, um, the nature of, you know, how these two teams are smooched together just before an election. Yep, there was quite – there was a lot of tension.

Q124. So, when you refer to the tension, is that in relation to you and Bruce or generally?

A Just generally, it was – it was a hard sort of time because, you know, we all had to sort of reapplying for jobs, they were coming in, so, there was a sort of adversarial relationship between the old team and the new team. Um, and sort of pushing us together because we didn't have that sort of set hierarchy in place, we didn't have like a manager who was in the office all the time. The Minister was in WA, she wasn't there all the time, so there were a lot of egos in the room of people just trying to carve out a space to be the most important advisor. Um, the new people were trying like to cement themselves with the Minister. The old people were trying to hang onto that relationship. And I was kind of the lackey, like the little one to sort of run around and getting everything organised and putting the office together and doing all that sort of stuff.

Q125. Okay. Now, one more question.

A No, I don't mind.

Q126. You said you were fairly new to Canberra.

A Yep.

Q127. And you didn't have, I guess an overwhelming amount of support. How long had you been in Canberra for?

A Um, I moved down for the job in October the year before.

Q128. Yep.

A Um, and the only people realistically I knew were my room-mates, um, Alex HUMPHREYS and Andrew. Um, and so I knew them, but beyond that, you know, the work was so intense and I'd never worked so hard in my life, but I didn't have family there, I didn't have well, any other friends there. I moved here solely for the job and so, when the former Minister CHOBO's team were all fired because of Cabinet reshuffle nonsense. Um, I knew like four people in that building at that point anymore because they all left. Um, so I didn't know anyone really, and I – yeah, I was pretty isolated.

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Q129. How old were you at the time?

A Ah, twenty-four.

MADDERS:

Q130. Okay. Thanks Brittany. Do you want a break or anything?

A Yes.

Q131. Would you like a break?

A Yeah, I'd like to have some water.

Yes, all right. So, the time is now two sixteen pm, and this interview is suspended.

ROEIC SUSPENDED AT TWO SIXTEEN PM

ROEIC RESUMED AT TWO TWENTY-NINE PM

MADDERS:

Q132. The time is now two twenty-nine pm and this interview has recommenced. Brittany, you've just had a bit of a break. During that break did we discuss anything in regards to this investigation?

A No.

Q133. All right. So, Emma was just talking about the general how work is and what work is like in your position at work.

A Yeah.

Q134. And just going into that a little bit, you said, um, the person involved in this is Bruce LEHRMANN?

A That's correct.

Q135. How do you know his name?

A Um, through the office. So, originally, um, I heard that Linda REYNOLDS was purported to be getting the new Defence Industry portfolio. Um, I found out that Steve CHOBO was being stood down, by a journalist called Joe ASTON, and at that point I just started making inquiries trying to get in contact with his office because I wanted to know them, I wanted to get out there, I wanted to put my name forward as someone who was keen to try and stay on, because for me this is my entire life, I – you know, I had found a door into Parliament, I was not leaving, I was really determined. Um, and so, I made a contact with his media advisor, Nikki HAYMER.

Q136. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and so she is still to this day, um, Minister REYNOLDS media advisor, um, and I went and I met with her and that was the first time

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she introduced me to Bruce. Um, I had this sort of like this quasi job interview with Minister REYNOLDS team.

Q137. Okay.

A So, I met her existing team which was made up of Jessie WOOTON, Nikki HAMER and Bruce LEHRMANN. And that was the first time I'd ever met him. Um, and then following that, Nikki and I went outside, because she would be the more senior person in relation to the media sphere, and I sort of had a weird quasi job interview with Nikki HAMER for the Assistant Media gig, which I ended up kind of getting but mostly I ended up doing broader admin stuff with Minister REYNOLDS as well.

Q138. Okay. Thanks for that.

A That's okay.

Q139. Before you gave a description of Bruce.

A Mm-hmm.

Q140. What about his speech, is it normal, what's his speech like?

A Um, um, there's nothing sort of particularly distinguishing about it that would make me stick out in my mind. Um, I remember it was quite normal, um, and that was sort of – yeah, there's nothing bad that was particularly distinguishing.

Q141. Okay. So, you'd say a normal Australian accent that sort of thing?

A Yeah, broadly. I know that he had some sort of American roots somewhere but there was no sort of distinguishable American twang to his voice that I noted to myself.

Q142. Okay. Okay. And this might sound a bit strange, did he have any particular odour or anything like that?

A No, and to be honest I didn't really pay much attention to him, despite all of this.

Q143. Yeah, yeah.

A Like he was sort of someone in my office, we didn't have a great relationship, but I never like – he wasn't really in my mind that much.

Q144. Yeah.

A Yeah.

Q145. Did you have his phone number saved in a phone?

A Yeah, yeah, definitely, well, we were in the same office so I had his private and his work contact because yeah, I had to organise a lot of stuff with him, so yeah, I did.

Q146. Yeah, okay. Okay. So, before we were talking about being at The Dock?

A Yes.

Q147. How many drinks do you think you had at The Dock?

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- A Um, I'm not exactly sure, I think maybe five.
- Q148. Mm-hmm.
A But that's just me sort of guessing to be honest, I'm not exactly sure. I know I had two at the sort of – two over that first sort of two hours. And then obviously it started to – it started to accelerate once they were being bought for me, so, I'm not exactly sure how much I had.
- Q149. Okay.
A Yeah.
- Q150. And when you were going to leave The Dock - - -
A Yeah.
- Q151. - - - how intoxicated do you think you were?
A Very, I don't fully remember the conversation of leaving. I don't fully remember – I just – the next thing I sort of remember was being at 88mph, so like I – yeah, I was already leaving The Dock I was really very drunk.
- Q152. Okay. So, on a scale of zero to ten, zero being a hundred per cent sober and ten being passed out.
A Mm-hmm.
- Q153. What was your intoxication level?
A At the point of leaving The Dock, I would say seventy per cent, I was already very drunk at that point.
- Q154. Okay. So, would you attempt to drive a vehicle or anything like that?
A No, oh, no, no. No, like I don't even have full memory of leaving The Dock. I just remember being at 88mph at the next point. I don't have sort of full wholesome memories. I know that like when I relay sort of what I remember, it sounds like a really sort of full and coherent like recollection, but it's – it's really patchy. And I think that's really because I was really drunk.
- Q155. Yep. Okay. So, you hadn't – if I have got it correct, you've got no recollection of how you got from The Dock to Eighty-eight Miles?
A I'm not sure. I think we took a taxi or an Uber but I don't fully remember the ride.
- Q156. Okay. So, what's the next thing you remember at Eighty-eight Miles?
A Um, I remember sitting in like this corner booth.
- Q157. Mm-hmm.
A Um, and I remember sitting in between my friend, Lauren and sitting next to Bruce, and then Austin was sort of on the blind side.
- Q158. Okay. And then what happened?
A Um, I remember going onto the dance floor at a certain point. I remember kind of dancing, um, for a little while. And I just remember more drinks being had.

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Q159. You said you were dancing, do you remember who you were dancing with or?

A Strangers I think. Um, I don't think – I don't know why I think this but I don't remember dancing really with Lauren or Austin or Bruce to be honest. I remember sort of dancing by myself, just in the crowd.

Q160. Okay.

A Yeah.

Q161. So, do you remember anything of the layout of that club?

A Yeah. Um, so, you kind of – you go down these stairs, um, and it's like a long layout, so you've kind of got the big long main bar and then opposite that you've got lots of individual sort of booths that are sort of laid out. And then at the very end you've sort of got like a light-up dance floor and it's sort of, um, kind of an eighties style with all light squares. Um, that was the first time I'd ever been there, I've never been back since. Um, yeah, and that's sort of what I remember of the layout. I think the DJ booth was over on the side, maybe near the bathrooms or somewhere near that. But yeah, I don't fully – that's sort of what I remember of the venue itself.

Q162. Okay. And do you remember any conversations you had while you were there?

A Um, not really. Um, I remember getting the impression that Lauren and Austin were kind of seeming quite couply or they were getting along being that they were flirting.

Q163. Mm-hmm.

A Um, but I don't remember specific conversations at all.

Q164. Okay. And what about drinking, did you continue drinking while you were there?

A Yeah. And so I think at that point we started having shots, um, yeah. I don't remember how many rounds, um, I just remember they kept coming and I willingly kept drinking.

Q165. Okay. Do you remember what you were drinking when you said, "shots"?

A Not really, no.

Do you have any questions, Emma about Eighty-eight Mile?

FRIZZELL:

Q166. I do. There's one very quick one. So, you said it was the first and the last time that you have been there?

A Yep.

Q167. And you've described the layout within – how is it that you know that that was the bar of 88mph?

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A Um, I think I only knew it on the basis of name, I think, I – I don't know why, but I know – I know it was there.

Q168. Yep.

A Um, I just remember the name and I know it wasn't Mooseheads or anything. Um, I knew it was that bar for some reason. Yeah, I don't know how specifically, I'm sure maybe there's a text at some point that can corroborate it, but I just – I've always had in my mind and known it was 88mph. Yeah, I'm not sure.

Q169. But not sure how you know it was 88mph?

A No.

Q170. Now, please correct me if I'm wrong, but did you say it was while you were at 88mph that you fell over?

A Yeah, that was at the end of the night.

Q171. Can you tell me more about that?

A Yeah. Um, I think we were going up the stairs to leave, um, and I tripped up the stairs and fell over. Um, yeah, and at that point I kind of really knew that I was – that I did – there'd been too much – I wasn't – I didn't feel together, I felt kind of messy. Um, like I felt like I was – I remember sort of losing my phone at one point in the night. Um, but I just – I – yeah, I was really, really drunk, it came to the point where it was weird, it was really weird. But I – because I don't usually – I drink socially, but I don't get obliterated and I felt like I was at that point of obliteration. That's why I'm saying I was at a hundred, like a hundred.

Q172. So, when Detective Leading Senior Constable MADDERS asked you before on a scale of one to ten, one being you're sober, ten being as drunk as you can recall?

A It's as drunk as I've ever been in my life.

Q173. Okay. Now, you said earlier that when you fell over you were injured.

A Yeah.

Q174. Could you tell me more about that?

A Yeah, I just scraped my knee, um - - -

Q175. Do you recall how you fell over?

A Forwards, I fell over forwards because I tripped on the stairs as I was trying to leave.

Q176. Mm-hmm. Do you recall how you landed?

A Um, I think I kind of managed to catch myself in terms of hands, like I didn't face plant but I definitely got my knees and I was off-road, I had to be helped up.

Q177. And what do you recall about that?

A I remember Bruce helped me up.

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Q178. Do you remember how?

A Um, I just remember he helped sort of pick me up from behind, because I remember Lauren and Austin were already in front of us and he was behind me. So, he saw as I fell over and he helped me up from behind.

Q179. And what happened next?

A I think then it was – it was the cabs or going into the cab or the Uber. Um, because we were at the front then, the bouncer saw me fall over. Um, they – there was a conversation that happened about them going that way because they lived in the same direction, because they lived at the Kingston Foreshore. Um, and so, naturally we were kind of together at that point.

Q180. Do you recall at all where you had got the cab from?

A I think at the front corner of the bar, there's like – I think it's on a corner of a road, I'm not exactly sure, but I vague – I have a recollection of the bouncer was there. I go up the stairs and I think it's on the corner, um, and I remember the taxi pulling up in front of us and that's when I got in, I think, but it's all kind of hazy to be honest.

Q181. Yep.

A But that's what I kind of recall.

That's all.

MADDERS:

Q182. Okay. So, in regards to just hopping into the taxi, Brittany, what's – and correct me if I'm wrong, so, you didn't have to walk too far to get into a taxi?

A No, no, not at all. I think it was just sort of on the corner, um, I think I maybe had to walk sort of – sort of ten to fifteen metres from the front entrance of the venue to where the actual taxi pulled up or the Uber. I'm not sure if it was an Uber or a taxi.

Q183. Okay. Yeah.

A I think it was a taxi but I'm not - - -

Q184. Yeah. And so tell me what happened when you got in the taxi or in the taxi?

A Um, I don't really remember much of the conversation, but I just remember it being mentioned that he had to stop at work to pick up something. Um, yeah, and at that point I was kind of focussed on not being sick, I felt very ill.

Q185. Mm-hmm.

A Um, I don't think there was much of a conversation, I think I was really quite out of it.

Q186. Okay. And when you say, "He had to stop at work."

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- A Sorry, I meant, sorry, Bruce, Bruce had to stop in to get something from work or wanted to stop in to get something from work.
- Q187. Yeah. And do you remember where you were sitting in the taxi or Uber?
- A I was certainly in the back, I don't know which side of the taxi I was in.
- Q188. Okay. And so you were in the back?
- A Yeah.
- Q189. And where was he?
- A He was also in the back.
- Q190. Okay. And do you know how long it took to get from the bar to Parliament House?
- A Um, I don't remember the ride but it's not a very long commute, it's like ten minutes really in a taxi or an Uber. So, I assume it would have taken about that amount of time.
- Q191. Do you know what time of day this was?
- A Ah, it was around midnight-ish, it was very late, um - - -
- Q192. And how do you know that?
- A Um, I only know that on the basis of second-hand information I've been told.
- Q193. Okay.
- A Um, so, I don't know that in myself, um, I've just heard from other people.
- Q194. Yep. Okay. That time was it daylight or?
- A No, it was very much - it was very much middle of the night, some point between - yeah, it was late.
- Q195. Yeah. Okay.
- A It could have been early Saturday morning for all I know, but it was very late, yep.
- Q196. Okay. And do you remember any conversations between yourself and Bruce or Bruce and the driver?
- A No.
- Q197. And who paid for the - - -
- A I think he did.
- Q198. Yes.
- A I went through my cards and things looking for just sort of - I wanted to piece together my night, and I didn't pay for anything.
- Q199. Okay.

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A Um, I paid for the Uber the next morning, but I didn't pay for anything that night.

Okay.

FRIZZELL:

Q200. Could you have paid with cash?

A Potentially, but I don't really carry cash, um, at all.

MADDERS: Okay.

FRIZZELL:

Q201. Would you have noticed if – so, you said that you have looked through your bank issue to see if there was any cab fares on there.

A Yeah, yep.

Q202. Would you have noticed if there was any withdrawals, cash withdrawals?

A Yeah, yeah, I would have noticed. Um, I didn't see any that night but I can reconfirm with you and give you guys that documentation, but I didn't see anything that would make me think I'd paid for it, so.

Yep.

MADDERS:

Q203. And this one might stretch the memory a bit, but the driver, do you remember anything about him?

A No idea.

Q204. No. So, you stated you went from Eighty-eight Miles in this cab or Uber to Parliament House. Is that correct?

A Yes, that's right.

Q205. So, when you got to Parliament House tell me about that?

A Um, so, we came through the back entrance, which is the ministerial entrance. Um, I don't know how we got in through the actual front gate because there is a front gate, and you need a swipe pass to get in. I didn't have my work swipe pass with me, I wasn't anticipating going into work, I didn't bring it with me. Um, I don't feel like he had it either, on the basis of other accounts that I've heard since, because he had to be let into the suite. So, like I don't know, I know we got in through that entrance, but I don't know how. I don't know if he had to call someone to let us in or if he had a swipe. But I don't know how we got in, but we got in through that front gate, which is the main gate to the private entrance.

Q206. Okay.

A So, whether he called the security guard or whether he had his swipe pass, we got in through the gate.

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- Q207. So, when you talk about this front gate, if I'm standing on the Lake Burley Griffin side.
A Yep.
- Q208. Which way would – where would the gate be in relation to Parliament House?
A Um, so, I would say – so, if you're coming up Melbourne Avenue, which is sort of – so, you've got Parliament House, you've got the front entrance which the public comes through.
- Q209. Mm-hmm.
A Um, then you've got the House of Reps side, which is where the House of Reps sort of chamber is. And then you've got the Senate chamber. The ministerial entrance is right at the back and it comes off Melbourne Avenue and then that's – that's called the ministerial entrance. Um, and it's that external gate where like the ministers' cars go down beside sort of, um, yeah, so, it's the first batch of steps up to Parliament, and it's like this underground entrance and it's – it's gated.
- Q210. Okay.
A And lighted all the time, there are eight cameras between the suite and where that taxi rank is outside of the ministerial suite.
- Q211. Yep. And that was off Melbourne Avenue you said?
A Yeah, that's right.
- Q212. All right. So, you've arrived outside the ministerial entrance, then what happened?
A So, we somehow got in. Um, and as we were going in, I remember him making the comment about staying quiet as we went through security.
- Q213. Mm-hmm.
A Um, I did, I stayed quiet, um, to the best of my recollection. Um, and I remember there was some form of – I had to sign something to get in. Um, so, we had interaction, the two security guards were there. And if you don't have a pass, you have to sign something to actually get in to verify that you are who you say you are, they look you up on the system.
- Q214. Mm-hmm.
A They log it, um, and then you have to physically sign something as well just to sort of confirm that you are who you say you are. Um, and I remember sort of signing – I don't know if I remember it, or if it's a built memory, but I signed something at the front entrance.
- Q215. Okay. So, on a – just say a normal workday, explain to me how you would get through security?
A Yeah. Um, so, usually I have like a ministerial sort of swipe pass and that gives me access to the back end of the building. Um, so you go

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through, you swipe the first one and that opens up, um, the actual front facing public entrance. You walk through, it's probably like a hundred metres, ah, it's where all the ministers' cars are. And then you go to what looks like airport security inside the building. Um, you don't have to swipe it again. You have to take off all your shoes or your metal things, like airport security, it goes through like a little tray check point system. Um, and then you have to walk through as well. Um, yeah, you can't have any metal on you, um, and yeah, so, you're visually ID'd by the guards and then you also have to swipe in at two point section to get into that point.

Q216. Okay.
A Yeah.

Q217. And once you're inside does your swipe access give you access to everything or only specific areas?
A Only specific suites.

Q218. Yes.
A Um, so, like I can't just randomly go up to the Prime Minister's Office and get access to his – mine only would open the corresponding office that I work in, um, yeah.

Q219. Okay. And Defence Minister REYNOLDS office, is it – is it enclosed or is it open?
A Ah, so, it's – it's enclosed, so, um, hers is on the sort of the first floor, so you have to go upstairs, and it's Suite M one twenty-one or that's what it was at the time. Um, and you have to swipe in again to get access into the individual office as well.

Q220. Okay.
A So, there's like three check points we had to go through. Um, and I couldn't – I don't know if he let me into those check points, I always thought that he did, I would assume that he had his pass on him. Um, I've later had other outside information that makes me think we were let into those offices, but I don't remember that process. I don't remember speaking with anyone really. I don't remember how we got into the suite. Um, I thought it was him.

Q221. Okay. And so, the first check point, the one you said – described like an airport sort of one.
A Yep.

Q222. When you say you swipe and you didn't actually towards your hip level.
A Yeah.

Q223. Are you talking about what gates or anything like that?
A Yeah, so, it's like a little, um, it's like – it looks like a little – a little speaker box and it has this little system where if you touch it with this pass it goes green, if you're allowed in. Or it goes red if you're not and it makes a little sound. Um, and it's like a touch point key

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system that let's you unlock locks. Um, I'm sorry, I'm not sure if I've explained this very well, but that's what it is.

Q224. No, no, it's okay. Do you remember going through that on the night?
A Ah, we would have had to have, I don't specifically remember the first one. I remember some sort of interaction with the security guards at the big airport style one.

Q225. Okay.
A Um - - -

Yep. Okay.

FRIZZELL:

Q226. Can I just ask another question with that security check point?
A Yep.

Q227. Is one swipe one person or you can hold open a door and let someone through?
A It's open - it's a door.

Exactly.

MADDERS:

Q228. And in regards to going to Parliament House after hours, is that a normal practice?
A Um, like sometimes - I mean during sitting weeks, for example, I get in - I used to get in at six o'clock in the morning. Sometimes I'd get in at five o'clock in the morning depending what was on. And we wouldn't leave until the Senate rose, which was eleven o'clock, sometimes later, sometimes it would be midnight and we'd be there.

Q229. Mm-hmm.
A Um, so, there is this strange culture of you live at work, you feel like work is your home and so you do feel entitled to access to it all the time. But I personally, after a night out, had never been there before. That is - but it's strange in hindsight, but at the time it didn't seem overly strange for someone to suggest that they needed to just drop in and grab something. Um, which is why I was kind of so broadly obliging to just kind of go in.

Q230. Yep.
A Um, it didn't seem unreasonable.

Q231. Okay. And how far from the entrance to the minister's office would it be roughly?
A Um, if you go up in the lift, um, so once you go up past that little security - sorry, just for clarification, from the front entrance or from the airport security?

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- Q232. From the – from the – yeah, from the airport security?
A Um, not very far, you just kind of go up a level and then it's all of like twenty metres to your right.
- Q233. Okay. And from the front entrance to the airport security?
A Um, probably like a hundred and fifty metres because it's quite a long walk through the actual car park.
- Q234. Oh, okay.
A Yep.
- Q235. Okay. And you said you have a vague recollection of interacting with some guards or you don't recall?
A Yeah. I think they were two men, I don't really remember any identifying features. Um, yeah, I've – I've thought about it, I've tried to figure out who it was because it's like the same roster of security guards in the ministerial team security all the time. Um, so, I'm – I'm not exactly sure who it was.
-
- Q236. Okay.
A But I remember it was two men at the front and I remember the woman who called out to me was – was a female. And I had an impression that she seemed youngish, but that maybe unfounded.
- Q237. Okay. And so, when you got upstairs to the minister's office.
A Yeah.
- Q238. What happened then?
A I remember being by myself for a while. Um, and I remember sitting on the ledge and looking over the Prime Minister's courtyard and feeling really unwell and was really feeling sick. Um, I felt like I was going to pass out. Um, I felt completely out of it. Um, and I felt really tired. But I don't remember Bruce being around, I felt like I was by myself for a while, like he was doing something or getting something, I wasn't fully aware of his whereabouts when I was in the office at that stage. Um - - -
- Q239. So, who are we talking about - an office – what – how's the layout of the office?
A So, there's two entrances to the minister's office, you've got kind of like the backslip entrance. Um, then you've got your front main entrance. I feel like we went through the backslip entrance because that was the closest to the lift. And I ended up sitting on that – sort of – those little windowsills on the side of the office. Um, so, I feel like we came up through the back, um, yeah, sorry. What was - - - ?
- Q240. No, you're right. Just – is it a – is it like is it just one office like this?
A Oh, no, no, sorry, it's segmented, so, you've got sort of special enclosed offices. So, you've got the main sort of broad area where most of the staffer sit. Then you've got – further forward you've got the minister's private office, and then you've got the chief of staff's

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office, which is kind off that. And you've kind got your admin area, then you've got the secure safe and then we have where like the DLO's, the department liaison officers sat in their own private space as well. And then behind that we have the kitchen.

Q241. Okay.

A So, with the main big part where most people sit and then little segmented offices off that.

Q242. Okay.

A But they're not locked or anything, like you can access them.

Q243. All right. So, where the incident occurred, where – where was that?

A In the minister's office on the couch.

Q244. Oh, in the minister's office, okay. And in regard to size of the room how big would it be?

A Um, probably about this size, um, yeah, it's about this size, except, um, sort of the couch is maybe on this side. Um, the windows into the Prime Minister's courtyard would be over there and then you have the actual desk, um, and the minister has a private bathroom as well.

Okay. Okay.

FRIZZELL:

Q245. Does that particular office require swipe access?

A No.

Q246. Just the suite itself?

A Yeah.

Okay.

MADDERS:

Q247. All right. This may be difficult but can you just describe your first memory – when did you – you said but just before sorry, I should take yourself back, you felt that – you weren't sure where Bruce was.

A Yeah, yeah.

Q248. What happened then?

A I don't know how I got to the couch, but I was – I was on the couch, that was the next thing I sort of knew, I was on the couch.

Q249. Okay. And then what was your next – or what happened then?

A Um, Bruce is having intercourse with me.

Q250. Mm-hmm.

A Um, he had me sort of pinned down into the corner of the couch.

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- Q251. Okay.
A And I had the sense that it had been going on for a while.
- Q252. And what – what gave you that sense?
A He seemed sweaty. Um, yeah, that's pretty much the entirety of what I'm basing that on, but that - - -
- Q253. Yeah, yeah. You said you woke up to him on top of you having intercourse with you.
A Yep, yep.
- Q254. When you talk about intercourse what do you mean by that?
A Um, penetrative sex.
- Q255. And - - -
A Sorry, um, he was having vagina – he was penetrating – we were having penetrative sex in the normative sense.
- Q256. Okay. So, would it be fair to say, penile/vaginile intercourse?
A Yes.
- Q257. And so, when – when you woke up, how far away was he from you?
A Um, he was on top of me, crouched over me. Um, I was facing sort of – my head was towards the minister's actual sort of door, so that was the way I was orientated.
- Q258. Mm-hmm.
A And he was on top of me, um, yep, just sort of – I was sort of jammed into the corner of the couch, and that's sort of how he had me propped up enough to be having sex with me.
- Q259. Okay. And your – your dress, do you remember anything about how your dress was?
A My dress was still on my body, um, but it'd had just been really scrunched up, so it was around my waist.
- Q260. Okay. And what about underpants?
A No, I wasn't wearing any.
- Q261. Okay. So, the dress was around your waist. Is that right? And scrunched?
A Yes.
- Q262. And at that stage what – did you say anything?
A Yeah, I told him, no. I told him to stop.
- Q263. Mm-hmm.
A Um, and I felt like it was like on a repeat, like I was just saying it. But at that point it felt like – it felt like – I don't know why, it felt like it had been going on for a while and it felt like this after thought, like I was suddenly there and it didn't matter because it was – it felt like he was

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about to climax or he was building or something, and it just didn't matter at that. It felt like an afterthought.

Q264. And when you say you said, "No," what level of voice did you

use. Was it normal like you're speaking to me now?

A Um, I wasn't screaming.

Q265. Mm-hmm.

A But there was obviously an urgency to it. Um, I think the volume was clearly – I think it would have been reminiscent of this volume now.

Q266. Mm-hmm.

A Obviously there was more of an urgency, but I wasn't screaming.

Q267. No.

A Um, but I was crying at that point. It was kind of pretty much as soon as I came to, I started crying, because I couldn't get up.

Q268. Okay. And you said that his – sorry, was it his leg was on your?

A Yeah, so, he's outside knee had sort of pinned my leg open.

Q269. Mm-hmm.

A Um, so I was kind of in the corner of the couch exposed with his inside leg kind of pinning me into the corner. So, I was kind of pushed up and he was on top of me.

Q270. Yep. And what about his hands, do you remember where they were?

A I think he was holding himself up on the couch, on the side, he wasn't holding like – he wasn't holding like my chest or anything down, but he was – he was over the top of me, like he was holding onto the couch.

Q271. Okay. Do you remember where his face was in relation to you – when you woke up?

A He was hovering above me.

Q272. Okay.

A So, yeah, he wasn't looking at me, he was looking over me, yeah.

Q273. Mm-hmm. And was he saying anything or making any noises?

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A He was making noise, he was grunting.

Q274. He was grunting, yeah. And how long did this last for, do you think?

A I don't feel like it was very long, I felt it may have lasted for about two or three minutes longer.

Q275. Mm-hmm.

A Um, it may have been shorter than that but it felt like a long time for me.

Q276. Okay. And you said he – what happened when he finished?

A He got up and he left.

Q277. Okay.

A Um, I don't – I felt like he finished in me but I'm not a hundred per cent sure. Um, but I do remember that he got up and he looked at me and it was a strange moment of just eye contact, um, yep.

Q278. All right.

A And at that point I didn't say anything to him anymore.

No. Do you have any questions about that Emma?

FRIZZELL:

Q279. Yeah. Look, I know that this is probably the hardest part of doing your evidence-in-chief. I do have some questions however.

A Yeah, of course.

Q280. Now you said that in regards to your clothing, your dress was bunched up around your waist. Do you recall what – how Bruce was dressed?

A I think he still had a shirt on. He even may have had – like his over – like his blazer thing on still. He definitely didn't have his pants on though.

Q281. Now you said that you weren't wearing any underwear.

A Yep.

Q282. Had you worn underwear that evening?

A No, that dress has really bad lines, so, I wouldn't wear (indistinct).

Q283. Okay. Now just a couple of clarifying questions.

A Yes.

Q284. Now you said that his knee was pinning you on your leg down and you were in the corner of the couch. Is that right?

A Yep.

Q285. Okay. I guess from my mind, are you able to describe whereabouts a little bit clearer for me, you know, whether you could point on your leg?

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- A Yep. Um, so, my outside leg was sort of pinned down.
- Q286. Mm-hmm.
- A My head was up against sort of the corner of the couch and I was sort of jammed in the corner between the main cushion and side cushion. So, I was kind of pinned up in the corner. Um, and he was sort of holding onto the couch over me, um, just sort of propping me up into that corner where there was enough sort of to hold me in, um, and having sex with me.
- Q287. Yeah. Okay. Now you said that it was penile/vaginile intercourse?
- A Yep.
- Q288. I know that it can be difficult but can you recall what you felt?
- A Um, I could feel the intercourse happening. Um, it felt like rough.
- Q289. How so?
- A Um, I don't know, he was just slapping quite hard, like it was – it was quite forceful. Um, and thinking about it, it was forceful.
- Q290. And how did that make you feel?
- A Trapped, not human. It didn't feel like it was about me at all.
- Q291. So, you said that you had – you said, “No,” and you said, “Stop,” a number of times. You said that he didn't say anything. Was there any response at all from him that you had said those things?
- A No. It felt like he was sort of in the throes of it, like it was about to be done, it felt really sweaty, it felt like it was almost finished and I was kind of coming late to the party. That's what it felt like. And it felt like me saying, “No,” it was like this strange after-thought, like it wasn't – no, he wasn't re-active to it, he was – he was almost – he was almost finishing. And so it was – it wasn't acknowledged, he just kept going.
- Q292. Okay. And you said he finished and you're not a hundred per cent whether he ejaculated or not. Is that right?
- A Yes.
- Q293. Can you just describe what happened when he finished?
- A Um, I remember him getting off me. I kind of remember him maybe getting dressed. I remember he looked at me and I looked at him and there was a strange moment of just eye contact. I didn't saying anything, he didn't say anything. Then he left the room.

No, that's all.

MADDERS:

- Q294. So, Brittany, you were saying before that when you got to Parliament House you were like a ten out of ten for intoxic?
- A Yeah.

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- Q295. How were you when you woke up do you think?
A Um, I still felt a bit gross I would say, and I was sick in the minister's toilet.
- Q296. Oh, sorry, I should have clarified – during the incident when you woke up?
A Oh, yeah.
- Q297. How – how was your intox at that point, do you think?
A At least a ten or a nine. I couldn't get up after then, I couldn't leave the couch. So, when he left I couldn't get up.
- Q298. All right. And I think you might have said it earlier but I may have missed it, have you ever been that intoxicated before?
A No.
- Q299. And you have mentioned that you socially drink.
A Yep.
- Q300. Have you had a time when you've drunk and then you've had a blackout and can't recall what you've done?
A During schoolies when I was – I was - you know, I was graduating and sixteen, I remember that that was – that's happened before.
- Q301. Yeah.
A Um, but not as an adult, no.
- Q302. Okay. Okay. So, he's – he's left, which door did he go through?
A The same one we kind of came in through I think, which is the – the sort of the side door out of the minister's office, not the main double doors, the single one.
- Q303. Yep. And then what happened?
A I passed out again.
- Q304. Yeah. And what about your dress and - - -
A I don't remember. I don't feel like I fixed myself or anything, I think I just passed out again.
- Q305. Yeah. All right. So, you've – you've passed out and then what do you remember?
A Um, the next thing I remember was the next day when the woman, the security guard was calling into the suite, asking if I was okay.
- Q306. Okay.
A She didn't come into the suite but she was just yelling in.
- Q307. Okay. So, someone called out?
A Yeah.
- Q308. And that was – that was the next day?

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A Yeah, that was the next day, it was probably around eight o'clock at that point.

Q309. Okay. So, from the time you passed out to the next day, did you wake up at any stage during that night?

A Not that I can recall.

Q310. Yeah.

A I've heard after – once again I don't want to draw on other people's – what they've said, but I've heard that people came in or checked on me or that I had some sort of interaction with other people, and whatever those interactions, um, I don't recall them.

Q311. Okay. Now, so, you said it was a female who called out to you?

A Yeah.

Q312. But she didn't enter?

A No, she didn't enter the suite.

Q313. Do you remember what she said?

A She said, "Is everyone okay in there?"

Q314. And do you remember what you replied?

A "I'm fine."

Q315. Okay. And then what happened?

A Um, I was quite upset. I was crying, um, I was sick in the minister's toilet.

Q316. Okay.

A Um, and I ended up sitting in the DLO's sort of back corner room and it's – it's the only room in the office that hasn't got any windows. And I sat in there and I found a box of chocolates and I ate the Roses box of chocolates while I was crying to myself.

Q317. Okay.

A Um, and I was there for like an hour.

Q318. Yep.

A Um, and then after that I kind of tried to collect myself as much as possible and sort of tried to pull myself together because I was quite dishevelled, and kind of tried to fix my hair. Um, and then I borrowed one of the minister's jackets to throw over my cocktail dress.

Q319. Yep.

A Um, and I was wearing that on the way out.

Q320. Okay. So, when that female security guard called out, is that when you got up?

A That was when I woke up, yeah.

Q321. Yeah. And when you woke up then how was your clothing?

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A It was up around my waist still.

Q322. It was up around your waist?

A Yeah, I think, I think it was.

Q323. Okay, And after you got into the jacket and everything what happened then?

A Um, I had to sort of go out through the ministerial entrance, the same way we came in.

Q324. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and I booked an Uber.

Q325. How did you book the Uber?

A Through my phone, I got a receipt, it was like ten o'clock the next day.

Q326. Yep. Do you have to sign out when you leave Parliament House?

A No, but they have cameras everywhere, so they would have seen all this, um, yeah.

Q327. Yep. So, at ten am?

A Yeah.

Q328. And I believe you said earlier, you went home. Is that right?

A I did.

Q329. And you went back and your flatmate was home with a mate?

A A friend, yeah.

Q330. A friend. What's your flatmate's name again sorry?

A Alex HUMPHREYS.

Q331. Alex HUMPHREYS?

A Yes.

Q332. Do you remember the friend's name at all?

A Vivienne and I don't remember her last name but we could find it.

Do you have any questions about leaving?

FRIZZELL: Leaving – no.

MADDERS:

Q333. No, okay. So, did you – what did you talk or what happened when you got home with Alex?

A Um, she tried to introduce me to like her childhood friend, Vivienne. I was quite distressed.

Q334. Mm-hmm.

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A Um, and they questioned where I'd been all night. I said, "I went out for drinks with colleagues and I just went back to Parliament." I didn't elaborate beyond that.

Q335. Mm-hmm.

A Um, but I remember my room-mate sort of thinking that it was weird, yeah.

Q336. Yeah. And did you go into any detail that weekend with her?

A With her?

Q337. Yeah.

A No. I'd met these people on flatmates dot com more than six months before, so I didn't have like a long-standing relationship with these people like realistically.

Q338. Yeah. Okay. And what did you do that weekend again, sorry?

A Ah, nothing, I was by myself and I cried literally the entire weekend. I didn't really come out of my bedroom. I came out for food intermittently but I didn't do anything else.

Q339. Yeah. Okay. And then you said you went to work on Monday. Do you remember any interactions you had with anyone on Monday?

A Um, not really, that whole day I was just on auto pilot, like I was just trying to keep my cool and maintain calm and just sort of figure out what to do next because I didn't know how to navigate it, given who he was and who I was. I just figured that his word carries much more weight than mine.

Q340. Yeah.

A I just didn't think anyone would believe me first and foremost.

Q341. Yep. And did you have any communication with him over the weekend?

A No, no, but he was in the office on the Monday.

Q342. Okay. And tell me about that?

A Um, it was very tense, it was very strange. I remember he bought me coffee.

Q343. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and I remember I was trying to like over-compensate to make it feel normal. Like I just wanted everything to be normal and I was still sort of dealing with the shock and the trauma of it. And so, you know, I was broadly nice to him still.

Q344. Okay. Did he talk about anything?

A No.

Q345. No.

A We never – we didn't discuss it, we didn't talk about it. Um, yeah, I think – yeah, it just – he didn't seem ashamed, he didn't seem upset

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or anything, he just – it just didn't feel like something that you wanted to address.

Yeah.

FRIZZELL:

Q346. What was his relationship status at the time?

A I think he was single but I'm not entirely sure.

MADDERS: And then – or do you have any questions about Monday?

FRIZZELL:

Q347. Not about the Monday, just a couple of clarifying questions about when you got home.

A Yeah, of course.

Q348. So, you said that you appeared distressed.

A Yep.

Q349. Could you tell me how?

A Um, I think I just didn't seem myself. I remember sort of – Alex was super excited for me to finally meet her childhood friend, she'd talked about so much. And I just – I wasn't as enthusiastic or as warm or as, you know, happy to meet this person. I was quite of standoffish and a bit disorientated and just kind of just – I wasn't myself. Um, yeah, so, I was trying to make my way through that social interaction, trying to maintain a sense of poise about it, but it just – I couldn't. Um, and she kind of read that something weird, there was something different or something had happened. Or – I don't – she just – she knew I was off.

Q350. Yeah.

A Yeah.

Q351. So, you said that you met on-line?

A My flatmates, yeah.

Q352. Yeah, yep. Okay. Did you have a close relationship?

A I mean for Canberra for me?

Q353. Sure, yeah.

A Um, but realistically I was working so much all the time and every opportunity I got I was trying to go home, so we didn't – we were friendly, um, but we weren't like – we wouldn't have dinner together or anything. Like we've become friends now but at the time, no, we were just kind of warm friendly acquaintances who lived together.

Yep.

MADDERS:

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Q354. So, Brittany, you said on Tuesday you were called into a meeting. Is that right?

A Yeah.

Q355. What can you tell me about that meeting?

A Yeah, um, it was with my former chief of staff, she's not Canberra-based, so I remember it feeling weird that she was there, but I knew it was – what it would be pertaining to.

Q356. Yeah.

A Um - - -

Q357. Sorry, what's her name?

A Ah, Fiona BROWN.

Q358. Fiona BROWN, yeah.

A So, I was – I think I went to the meeting second, um, she had a one-on-one private meeting with Bruce first.

Q359. Mm-hmm.

A Um, where that went for about forty-five minutes and at the end of that, he immediately left and started packing up his desk.

Q360. Mm-hmm.

A Um, I then went in next and from the outset it felt like a disciplinary meeting.

Q361. Mm-hmm.

A Um, she made me resign the Ministerial Code of Conduct, which is like our employment agreement. I re-signed that. Um, and I sort of – I knew what it was like sort of going to be about, um, and so, I was just full and frank about everything that had happened. The same way that I've kind of discussed it now. It was just – but the difference was that that was the first time I'd sort of vocalised it, I'd never sort of recounted the events. And at the end of that meeting, as soon as I identified it as a rape and that I didn't – I didn't consent to any of that, um, I started to cry and that's when sort of the gears shifted and sort of it became less about me and more political than the actual incident itself.

Q362. Okay.

A Um, yeah.

Q363. Who was in the meeting?

A Just me and Fiona BROWN.

Q364. And when you were sitting outside was there anyone else around?

A Yeah, yeah, I was sitting with some of my other colleagues, so, ah, Drew BOLAND, Doug REID um, Geoffrey HAYES, and they weren't privy to anything that was going on. Um, and they didn't ask any questions.

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Q365. Okay.

A And that's sort of just the culture of, you know, former Defence people, heads down, don't ask.

Yeah.

FRIZZELL:

Q366. So, I think initially, you had said that Fiona had come out to – is it the bull pit, is that what you call it?

A Yeah, yeah.

Q367. She'd come out to that and said that she needed to speak to you both.

A Yes.

Q368. So, was that quite a public announcement?

A Yeah, other people had heard it and, um, yes, it was quite public.

Q369. How did that make you feel?

A Um, I just – it felt disciplinarian, I thought that I was in trouble. Um, I hadn't even – I knew what had happened to me was wrong. I knew that I hadn't consented, but I just – I still had this sort of self-blame, guilt that why was I there or that I'd done something wrong. Um, and so, I felt stressed that I was about to be fired. That's what I felt at the time.

Q370. And was – so, you had said earlier that Fiona BROWN was based more out of – you said, the Northern Rivers area?

A Yeah, so, she came down obviously in sitting weeks.

Q371. Okay. And was she due back that week?

A No, not to my – it wasn't a sitting week, so it was strange for her to be there. I think she was specifically there to deal with the situation.

Q372. Okay. I guess how did that make you feel?

A Um, stressed, I was under a lot of duress, um, I hadn't – I don't know, even though I was upset all weekend about it, I still hadn't hit, I hadn't told anyone, so it didn't feel real yet. I was upset, distressed, but the moment I vocalised it, and I said to Fiona, that was the first moment it really, fully hit me in a way that I fully identified it as – as rape and I knew that it was – I knew what had happened, I knew that it was wrong and just, yeah, that's when it kind of really hit me.

MADDERS:

Q373. How long did that meeting go for?

A Um, I think around an hour or so.

Q374. Mm-hmm. And what happened as a result of that?

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A Um, she sent me home for the rest of the day because I sort of had a bit of a breakdown, I was crying, um, quite a lot. Um, and yeah, she encouraged me to take the rest of the day off.

Q375. Okay. And then what happened?

A Um, I went home and I cried. Um, but it felt like – it felt like they were sort of managing it, like it was – she handed me – and I'm not sure if it was the first or the second meeting, I think, you know, honestly like the first week after the assault, it's kind of like I get confused about what day was what and what day certain things happened. But at a certain point I remember she handed me the EAP brochure and said I should call the number. Um, and I did – it was like a two month wait to speak to a psychologist. Um, and then at some point during that first week I made contact with the AFP in Parliament House, on the basis that it had already triggered a lot of sort of events, the security breach, it had already alerted, you know, people in my office had already known because it's their job to know of security breaches. And there were a few conversations that were starting to happen about, you know, the assault. They knew something had happened. I was starting to get second-hand information about, you know, security guards finding me.

Q376. Yep.

A That sort of stuff started to happen.

Q377. In that first meeting or that first week, did anyone actually – I know you said you spoke to the AFP at Parliament House.

A Yes.

Q378. But did anyone actually let you know you could speak to ACT Policing?

A No, no. No, beyond Fiona, the only other person who sort of broached it with me was our department liaison officer from the Department of Defence.

Q379. Mm-hmm.

A And it's his job to sort of monitor whenever there is a security breach. And we had a private discussion after hours and it felt off the record, so to speak. Like it felt like he was connecting with me as a human as opposed to in his official capacity.

Q380. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and I was sitting with him sort of in the back room and it was pretty isolating. And he was one of the few people that I'd known in the building since I started. Um, and he was the one that disclosed to me that I'd be found by a security guard, that they'd actually come into the suite. Um, and that was information to me because I didn't know that. Um, and then the next thing he was the first person to actually ask me off-hand about me offering the information, had I been raped? And I'd said, "Yes," and I started crying. Um, and I just remember feeling like that word – you know given all those discussions with Fiona, we avoided using the "rape" word. I said, "I

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was assaulted." I said, "He was on top of me," but I hadn't heard "rape" fully before.

Q381. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and he was the first person to say, "rape," to me. Um, and yeah, so he knew.

Q382. What's his name sorry?

A Chris PAYNE, P-A-Y-N-E.

Q383. P-A-Y-N-E. And what's Chris's role sorry?

A Ah, so he is the DLO, which is the departmental liaison officer from the Department of Defence. He's since moved on, I think he's got some official role in the Department of Defence now.

Q384. Okay. And when – when did you speak to him?

A One afternoon after work during that week, it's beyond that first day where I had to go home because I was really upset, I just kept coming in.

Q385. Yep. Just when you were describing, you said, when you said to "Fiona, you didn't say the word, 'rape,' or anything like that."

A Yeah.

Q386. Do you remember what you actually said?

A I said, "That he was on top of me. That I didn't consent. And I said, "assault." But I hadn't used the word, "rape," yet. I wasn't comfortable with it, it felt – I don't know, it felt really abrasive. Um, I just hadn't – I'd only just built up the words to even find that I had actually been assaulted.

Q387. Mm-hmm.

A I just – I felt like, I don't know, it felt like a – it was just like a hard thing for me to say and verbalise to myself. It still is a hard word for me to say, it makes it real. And every time I raise it, it always make me sad.

Q388. Mm-hmm. Yeah. So, Brittany, you spoke to Chris?

A Yes.

Q389. Who did you talk to then?

A Um, I was trying to talk to Fiona. Um, she was sort of – we don't have, um, we have a really silo information structures in ministerial offices.

Q390. Mm-hmm.

A Like you can be – you don't – you can be fired for no reason. And so, it's this really strange power dynamic of, you have no one to go to but the minister, which you don't want to speak to the minister about anything like this. Or your chief of staff, and that for me was Fiona. I'd only known her for about three weeks, I'd probably met her all of twice or three times at this point. We didn't have a close

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relationship, she'd just started, she'd been seconded from the Prime Minister's Office. Um, and so every time I tried to raise it with her, it became this really difficult issue. And I've heard that there was CCTV footage from Chris, and I wanted it for myself to contextualise the experience. Because I have so many holes in my memory. I was really, really – I was at a ten. Um, and so I needed it for like clarity to understand what had happened to me, because I was still trying to process and piece it all together. And there was a lot of resistance from, you know, showing me or disclosing it to me or even just understanding sort of what had happened. Because I was finding out information from other people about what had happened. Um, and I didn't have any idea because I was so out of it. Um, yeah, and that was really distressing kind of finding out second-hand from everyone else about the assault.

Q391. Yeah. So, besides Chris and Fiona, who else have you – who else did you tell at that stage?

A Um, I don't remember telling her, but I recently got a message from Nikita, who was at the drinks prior to.

Q392. Yep.

A Um, she knew about the assault as well and she apologised for not doing more at the time. Um, so, she obviously knew, but I don't remember telling her, I don't know how she found out, but she knew.

Q393. Mm-hmm.

A And then I also told, um, my ex-partner, um, I told him pretty quickly.

FRIZZELL:

Q394. It was on that weekend wasn't it?

A Yeah, so I told him that I had been at Parliament and then during that week I told him that I was raped, yeah.

Okay.

MADDERS:

Q395. Sorry, what was your ex's?

A Ah, Ben DILLAWAY.

Q396. DILLAWAY?

A Yeah, so, D-I-Double-L-A-W-A-Y.

FRIZZELL: How would you feel about having a little bit of a break again?

MADDERS:

Q397. Yeah, do you want to have a bit of break then?

A Yeah, that'd be good.

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All right. The time is now three twenty-six pm, and this interview is – sorry, suspended.

ROEIC SUSPENDED AT THREE TWENTY-SIX PM

ROEIC RESUMED AT THREE FORTY-ONE PM

MADDERS: The time is now three forty-one pm, and this interview is resumed.

Q398. Brittany, you just had a break again just to have a breather.
A Mm-hmm.

Q399. While you had your break did we discuss anything in regards to this investigation?
A No.

Q400. No. All right. So, Brittany, before the break we were just going through who you've told about the incident.
A Yeah.

Q401. Can you list the people you have disclosed this incident to?
A Um, yes. Before going public with my assault - - -

Q402. Mm-hmm.
A - - - um, I told my ex-partner, Ben DILLAWAY.

Q403. Mm-hmm.
A Um, I told Lauren GAIN, who was at the drinks thing beforehand. Um, I've spoken about it with Nikita, ah, Captain IRVINE, sorry, Nikita Captain IRVINE.

Q404. All right.
A Um, I spoke about it with Chris PAYNE, who was the Department of Defence DLO. Um, I've spoken about it with Fiona BROWN, who was my chief of staff at the time. I spoke about it with, ah, Minister REYNOLDS.

Q405. Mm-hmm.
A Um, I spoke about it with, ah, Mikaela CASH. I spoke about it with my former of chief of staff, Daniel TRY.

Q406. Yep.
A I spoke about it with another – someone who worked at the Minister of Defence's office, called, Kristy PEARSON.

Q407. Mm-hmm.

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- A She got one – there was like a media inquiry about it at one point. Um, I spoke about it with – obviously, David. Um, my dad. Um, I spoke about it with my room-mate, Alex HUMPHREYS eventually.
- Q408. Mm-hmm.
A Um, I spoke about it with, um, Kylie ABBOTT, she used to work in my office with me.
- Q409. Okay.
A Um, a lady named, Regina CAMERA, who was also an advisor in the government.
- Q410. Regina, sorry, what's her surname?
A CAMERA, C-A-M-E-R-A.
- Q411. Yep.
A I spoke about it with a friend called, Claire BREEN. Um, I spoke about it with another advisor, Ben – Robert BAUER.
- Q412. Mm-hmm.
A Um, I spoke about it with another colleague, named Simone STARKE.
- Q413. Yep.
A Um, I didn't speak about it directly with them, but for some reason I know that John KUNKEL was involved and was advising Fiona about how to handle the situation at the time.
- Q414. Okay. Yep. Sorry, what was his surname?
A KUNKEL, K-U-N-K-E-L.
- Q415. K-E-L, yep.
A Um, I know his executive assistant, um, Daniel WONG was also in the office, in and out helping handle the situation after the assault.
- Q416. Mm-hmm.
A Um - - -

FRIZZELL:

- Q417. Did you speak directly to Daniel WONG or he's an extension of John KUNKEL?
A Yeah, they were both in and out of that office that entire week, so they were – they were privy to it.

MADDERS: Mm-hmm.

FRIZZELL:

- Q418. Yep.
A Um, um, who else? Um, Fiona, REYNOLDS, CASH. Um, one of my friends, oh, my friend, um, Gabrielle PHILLIPS, I told her as well. Um, I told my mum. I told my mum's ex-partner, Isaac JAKE. Um, um, I

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mean now it's a lot more widespread, but those are the people that I had conversations directly about it with off the top of my head.

MADDERS:

- Q419. Mm-hmm. All right. Yep.
A There are probably more, but that's - - -
- Q420. Yep, that's okay. They're the ones you remember the most?
A Yep.
- Q421. So, did you tell them various, different things or different levels of it?
A Different levels. So, some of them got, you know, "I was raped at Parliament House."
- Q422. Yep.
A Some people got, "There was an incident in Parliament House." Some people have recollections of that being what they know. Um, some people I went into full details, like who it was and what happened.
- Q423. Mm-hmm.
A So, it's everything between, and these are all people that knew, you know, between twenty nineteen and twenty twenty, before this year.
- Q424. Okay.
A Yeah. Um, you know, broadly now it's kind of more known and it's known by other people for different reasons. It's different names, whether it's a security breach or whatever happened, but yeah, those are the people I personally told my version of what I know.
- Q425. Yep. And you just said, "You told some people the name," of Bruce?
A Yes.
- Q426. That's what I'm assuming you've told.
A Yes.
- Q427. Do you know how many people you've told his actual name?
A Um, probably half the people would know his name.
- Q428. Okay.
A And by now I'm assuming more.
- Q429. Mm-hmm.
A But I personally told his name to at least half the people on the list.
- Q430. To about half that?
A Yeah.
- Q431. And when you – what's your – so, you said this is over from two thousand and nineteen through to two thousand and twenty. Is that right?

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A That's correct.

Q432. Do you remember where you were each time you told someone?

A Mostly it was in and around Parliament House.

Q433. Mm-hmm.

A Um, you know, I'd have like a bad day or I'd start having a panic attack and usually that would sort of trickle down into telling them what had happened. It was never something that I wanted to voluntarily sort of share with people.

Q434. Mm-hmm.

A Um, it was usually triggered by something. Whether it was a media inquiry, whether it was Senate Estimates, whether it was prompted by someone else who had already told them. It was always prompted by something.

Q435. Mm-hmm.

A Um, yeah, beyond the original scope of people who knew, which was Fiona, Minister REYNOLDS, myself, Ben DILLAWAY and the DLO. Um, everyone else kind of found out later down the track. But those were the original sort of key people that knew originally.

Okay. Do you have any questions, Emma?

FRIZZELL:

Q436. The people, so, having a look at the list that you provided.

A Yes.

Q437. So, half – half of them are work, people within the work. Were they told within a work context?

A Um, what do you mean by, "work context"?

Q438. Like were you reporting to them for work reasons, for employment reasons?

A Some of them, yeah. So, people like Fiona and, you know, KUNKEL and Daniel WONG, they all knew for work reasons.

Q439. Yes.

A Um, the ones who I refer to as colleagues, um, like Simone STARKE and Regina and Claire GREEN, Robert BAUER, they were all in like me confiding in them because I considered them friends at that time.

Q440. Okay. So, friends that you worked with them?

A Exactly, yeah.

Yeah, thank you.

MADDERS:

Q441. Do you remember who you told on that list his name?

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A Um, Fiona BROWN would have known his name.

Q442. Mm-hmm.

A Minister REYNOLDS knew his name. KUNKEL knew his name. Daniel WONG knew his name. Ben DILLAWAY knew his name. Um, Simone STARKE knew his name. Um, Gabby knew his name. Alex HUMPHREYS knew his name. Um, David knows his name. Um, CASH knew his name.

Q443. Mm-hmm.

A Because I had to tell her about the Facebook Liking/Unliking thing.

Q444. Oh, yep.

A Um, which means my former chief of staff, Daniel TRY would have known his name.

Q445. Sorry, what's his name?

A Daniel TRY.

Q446. Daniel?

A Yeah, so he would have known his name. Um, yeah, because they blocked a lot of his pass for me, so, yeah, they definitely knew his name.

Q447. Okay.

A Yeah.

Q448. And of that group did – did you go into full detail about what happened or was it again varied?

A Ah, varied, but most people knew that it was a rape inside Parliament House and that, um, it happened after hours on the weekend.

Q449. Okay.

A So, they – they knew the broad scope details, but they knew – in terms of saying I went to The Dock or Eighty-eight, I don't remember getting here and I don't - - - I didn't – not all of them knew my regular detail about it, but they all knew more fulsome details, in terms of, you know, what time weekend. And they seemed to have more information about it than I did in terms of specifics.

Q450. Yep. And then you said before these are the people who knew prior to going public?

A Yeah, all these people knew.

Q451. Who did you speak to in regards to it becoming public knowledge?

A Um, I spoke to, ah, Samantha MAIDEN. Um, I spoke to Lisa WILKINSON. I spoke to Lisa WILKINSON's producer, a guy called Angus something, I forget his last name, I can find it. Um, I spoke to – since it went public or prior to it going to public, sorry?

Q452. Well, prior and then when it became public?

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A Okay. Um, I told a closer circle of friends, so they all found out, so, like our Canberra circle of friends, which is like a guy called, Angus JUDD, um, Allan HORNER. Um, his partner, Kri YU. Um, I also told my childhood best friends to give them a heads-up, so, obviously Tasis, Brea AUSTIN. Um, my family helped me disseminate the information through both sides of my family, so they weren't taken off guard.

Q453. Mm-hmm.

A So, people like my grandma know and my great grandma know and all like the family tree knows, everyone who is in close proximity. I didn't personally tell them, my dad handled that, because like having conversation really difficult to have with loved ones.

Q454. Yeah, yeah.

A Yeah, I found it – I found it much easier to tell strangers than I do about than with your family, it's really hard.

Q455. Mm-hmm.

A Um, so I didn't tell a lot of them, my family kind of didn't know.

Q456. Okay. And again, did you tell like your family and your close friends what you've told us – not in as much detail as today?

A Not as much detail, yeah, it's all the same as, you know, assaulted – Parliament House – happened after hours – it happened over the weekend - I was found the next day type thing.

Yeah. Okay. Do you have any questions?

FRIZZELL: No.

MADDERS: No. Okay.

Q457. All right, Brittany, thanks for telling us all that and make you going through all this. Is there anything else you can think of that may – may be important?

A Um, I just – I'm very cognizant of the fact that half the people on that list are political people.

Q458. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and I know that you'll probably have some difficulty speaking with them. And I just want to flag my awareness of that ahead of time.

Q459. Mm-hmm.

A Um, and yeah, just say that I know that that's going to be an issue.

Q460. Okay. I do have one last question. In regards to Bruce, have you had, since the incident, have you had any contact other than that that first day, have you had any sort of contact with him?

A Um, no, so, I sort of immediately blocked him on my social media platforms.

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Q461. Yep.

A Um, he's never reached out to me via text. He has, um, sort of harassed is a strong word, but he was Liking/Unliking my boss's Facebook and Instagram photos. Um, that was sent from Mikaelia CASH at the time during COVID. And I – it's my understanding or my belief that it was done on the basis that I would get the notifications. Um, but I – that's my assumption on that.

Q462. Okay.

A But that's not personal contact it was through a third party but others were made aware of that contact.

Q463. Yeah.

A Like Daniel TRY and Mikaelia CASH they knew.

Okay. Got nothing else?

FRIZZELL: No.

MADDERS: No.

Q464. All right. Well, again thank you, Brittany, for speaking to us today and going through all that. If we need to speak to you again, is that okay?

A Yep.

Excellent. All right, the time is now three fifty-five pm, and this interview is concluded.

ROEIC CONCLUDED AT THREE FIFTY-FIVE PM