

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

Filing and Hearing Details

Document Lodged:	Originating Application for Relief Under Section 39B Judiciary Act 1903 - Form 69 - Rule 31.11(1)
Court of Filing:	FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA (FCA)
Date of Lodgment:	4/09/2025 9:28:33 PM AEST
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File Number:	NSD1591/2025
File Title:	BRUCE LEHRMANN v COMMONWEALTH SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE & ANOR
Registry:	NEW SOUTH WALES REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA
Reason for Listing:	To Be Advised
Time and date for hearing:	To Be Advised
Place:	To Be Advised

Registrar

Important Information

This Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

The date of the filing of the document is determined pursuant to the Court's Rules.

Originating application for relief under section 39B Judiciary Act 1903

No. of 20

Federal Court of Australia

District Registry: NSW

Division:

Bruce Lehrmann

Applicant

Commonwealth Special Minister of State

First Respondent

Mr Paul Brereton, Commissioner of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)

Second Respondent

To the Respondents

The Applicant applies for the relief set out in this application.

The Court will hear this application, or make orders for the conduct of the proceeding, at the time and place stated below. If you or your lawyer do not attend, then the Court may make orders in your absence.

You must file a notice of address for service (Form 10) in the Registry before attending Court or taking any other steps in the proceeding.

Time and date for hearing:

Place: Law Courts Building, 184 Phillip Street, Queens Square, Sydney NSW 2000

Date:

Signed by an officer acting with the authority
of the District Registrar

Filed on behalf of (name & role of party)	Bruce Lehrmann
Prepared by (name of person/lawyer)	Bruce Lehrmann
Law firm (if applicable)	Self – represented litigant/law student
Tel	02 8815 8182
Fax	N/A
Email	
Address for service (include state and postcode)	C/O Zali Burrows at Law, 1/299 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Details of claim

1. The Applicant is a former employee under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 (Cth)* ("The MOPS Act").
2. The Second Respondent executed two search warrants on the Applicant on 5 June 2024 in relation to one NACC Investigation, Operation Ivanhoe.
3. Operation Ivanhoe is an investigation into frivolous, 'James Bond' like allegations that the Applicant used 'official' information (being French submarine secrets) gathered on the night of 26 March 2019 for financial, professional and personal purposes, among other things.
4. On 5 June 2024 the Second Respondent and NACC 'officers' representing him confirmed the Applicant would be entitled to funding for legal representation throughout the NACC process.
5. In reliance on that acknowledgment, the Applicant engaged legal representatives and incurred substantial legal costs, including counsel's fees and solicitors' fees, to comply with compulsory processes of the NACC.
6. On 12 September the Applicant received a summons to attend a hearing of the NACC.
7. On the 22nd and 23rd of October 2024 the Applicant appeared in person before a hearing of the NACC in Hobart, Tasmania.
8. The hearing related to Operation Ivanhoe and another investigation, Operation Greenough.
9. Operation Greenough is an investigation by the NACC into the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and whether officers misused 'official' information, being information acquired by them during AFP Operation Covina (being the investigation of an allegation of sexual assault by Ms Brittany Higgins on 26 March 2019).
10. The Applicant was represented by Senior Counsel and a Solicitor at the NACC hearings.
11. The Second Respondent was present at those hearings.
12. It was further acknowledged at the hearings that the Applicant was entitled to legal funding given the compulsory processes of the NACC.
13. The Applicant applied for a grant of legal funding to the Commonwealth under the relevant regulations for complying with the NACC process and has been consistently stifled.
14. The Applicant continues to be represented by Senior Counsel and a Solicitor for the NACC matters, as they have not been finalised and active consideration is being given to commencing several actions under the NACC Act in this Court.
15. It is well established publicly that the Applicant is impecunious and in serious financial peril, The Respondents appear recklessly indifferent to the damaging, personal effect

the NACC processes are having on former employees when frivolous allegations are advanced.

16. The continued unexplained and unreasonable delay by the Commonwealth for a grant of funding has exacerbated the situation and resulted in the Applicant applying to this Court for relief and assistance.
17. The Applicant is being denied procedural fairness in the NACC process, is unable to appropriately challenge matters or advance a legitimate complaint that is outstanding with the Inspector-General of the NACC in relation to the conduct of the Commissioner and NACC officials.
18. The Applicant continues to incur costs and is liable for any cost recovery proceedings.
19. Despite the acknowledgment of eligibility, the Respondents have failed to provide funding and have unreasonably delayed making a decision in accordance with the law and regulations.

Non-disclosure notation:

20. The Second Respondent belatedly decided to issue a non-disclosure notation under subsection 96 (2) of the NACC Act on 12 September 2024 in relation to both Operation Ivanhoe and Operation Greenough.
21. The Applicant submits this was done to stifle his ability to obtain legal representation, deny him procedural fairness, deny the fourth estate (media) from scrutiny in circumstances where the Applicant is a well know public figure and is an ongoing attempt by the Commissioner to 'lock out' the judiciary from proper oversight of his decisions.
22. The Applicant considers that court proceedings are relevantly exempt from such an order of the Second Respondent.
23. The Applicant is supportive of the Court creating an online portal for public access to evidence in relation to these proceedings, it is in the public interest and interest of open justice.

Relief Sought

On the grounds stated in the claim, the Applicant applies for the following relief under section 39B of the *Judiciary Act 1903* and/or section 5 of the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*:

1. A declaration that the Applicant is eligible for legal funding in relation to costs incurred in compliance with the NACC investigations.
2. A declaration the Commonwealth has unreasonably delayed a grant of funding and denied the Applicant procedural fairness through the NACC process.

3. A writ of mandamus compelling the Respondents to determine or redetermine and provide legal funding lawfully and in compliance with orders of this proceeding.
4. An injunction restraining the Respondents from maintaining or enforcing a refusal of funding inconsistent with the NACC's acknowledgement of eligibility and this Courts declarations.
5. Such further or other relief as the Court considers appropriate.
6. Costs

Claim for interlocutory relief

The Applicant also claims interlocutory relief. The ongoing need for legal representation during active NACC investigations, in circumstances where the NACC acknowledges the Applicant is entitled to it, enlivens interlocutory relief being sought until the determination of this proceeding to prevent serious prejudice. Relief sought on an interlocutory basis:

1. Under section 23 of the Federal Court Act 1976, a stay of all NACC investigations involving the Applicant on the grounds of a denial of procedural fairness and abuse of process until the final determination of these proceedings.
2. An order requiring the Commonwealth and/or the NACC to make an interim payment of legal funding or otherwise provide funding to the Applicant pending final determination of these proceedings.
3. Any other interlocutory orders the court deems appropriate to ensure effective management of the proceedings.

Applicant's address

The Applicant's address for service is:

C/O Zali Burrows at Law, 1/299 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

E: [REDACTED]

Service on the Respondent

It is intended to serve this application on all Respondents.

Date: *4th September 2025*



Signed by Bruce Lehrmann
The Applicant

Schedule

No. of 20

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: NSW
Division:

Applicant

Bruce Lehrmann
c/o Zali Burrows at Law
1/299 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

First Respondent

Commonwealth Special Minister of State
c/o The Australian Government Solicitor (AGS)
4 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600
processservice@ags.gov.au

Second Respondent:

Mr Paul Brereton, Commissioner of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)
GPO Box 605
Canberra ACT 2601
legal@nacc.gov.au

Date: 4 September 2025