



Form 59  
Rule 29.02(1)

**Affidavit**

No. NSD372 of 2023

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: New South Wales  
Division: General

**MEHREEN FARUQI**

Applicant

**PAULINE HANSON**

Respondent

Affidavit of: **PAULINE HANSON**

Address: Suite 3, Level 36, Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Occupation: Senator

Date:

I Pauline Hanson, Suite 3, Level 36 Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4000, say on oath:

**Proceedings**

1. I am the respondent in these proceedings.
2. On 9 September 2022, Senator Faruqi posted the following Tweet:

*Condolences to those who knew the Queen.*

*I cannot mourn the leader of a racist empire built on stolen lives, land and wealth of colonised peoples.*

*We are reminded of the urgency of Treaty with First Nations, justice & reparations for British colonies & becoming a republic. (Faruqi Tweet)*

Filed on behalf of (name & role of party) Pauline Hanson

Prepared by (name of person/lawyer) Sue Chrysanthou SC and Tim Smartt (counsel)

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(include state and postcode)

Julie Yates

18th Jan 2024

3. Later on 9 September 2022, I directed that the following Tweet be posted in response to the Faruqi Tweet:

*Your attitude appalls and disgusts me. When you immigrated to Australia you took every advantage of this country. You took citizenship, bought multiple homes, and a job in a parliament. It's clear you're not happy, so pack your bags and piss off back to Pakistan. – PH (Hanson Tweet)*

4. Senator Faruqi is now suing me over the posting of the Hanson Tweet.
5. In this affidavit, I explain why I directed that my staff to post the Hanson Tweet.

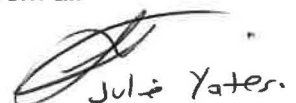
### **Background**

6. I am currently a Senator for Queensland, having most recently been elected to a 6 year term in May 2022. My previous political positions have been:

- (a) 1994 – Counsellor, Ipswich City Council
- (b) 1996 – Independent Member for Oxley (Brisbane), Commonwealth Parliament
- (c) 1997 – Founder of One Nation Party
- (d) 1998-2015 – candidate various Federal and State elections
- (e) 2016 – Senator for Queensland, One Nation Party, Commonwealth Parliament
- (f) 2022 – Senator for Queensland, One Nation Party, Commonwealth Parliament.

7. I was born into a working class family. My mum and dad owned a café in Woolloongabba. We lived above the shop. I shared a bedroom with my two older sisters. From a young age, I helped out around the house and then later on, helped out in the shop. I was only twelve when I started working in the shop. I believe the experience of watching how hard my parents worked and mixing with ordinary Australians of various ethnic backgrounds at the shop gave me an insight into a proper work ethic and not to take life's opportunities for granted.
8. I stopped attending school at age 15.
9. I got married when I was 16 years old and had my first child at 17 years old. With rare exceptions when I was married, I had to support my four children myself. There were times where I only had enough food for my children. This experience gave me insight into the tough situations that many Australians face.
10. To get a better life for my children and me, I purchased a fish and chip business with a loan. For years, I improved the fish and chips shop. Throughout this experience, I spoke to Australians of many different backgrounds, ethnicities and nationalities, including at the Brisbane Fish Market and at the store. I met many average Australians from all



  
Julie Yater.

walks of life (especially those living in regional and rural areas). I learnt what they liked, what they disliked and some common themes in how average Australians viewed our nation and its institutions.

11. In 2003, I went to prison for 11 weeks until I was acquitted of the offences that I was charged with by three judges of the Queensland Court of Appeal. Those weeks in prison were terribly upsetting and were the lowest moments of my life. In my time there, I met many people that the average politician wouldn't have met, and spoke to them and helped them with many of their issues. When I was released, I went back to my house. I noticed that the Australian flag at my house was tattered. The first thing I did on the day after being released was to replace the flag with a new Australian flag. I did that because despite everything that happened, I was so proud to be an Australian. No one could take away how proud I was to be Australian or the spirit of its people.
12. In addition to my other life experience, the experiences set out above informed my beliefs that I discuss in this affidavit.

### **The Queen's death**

13. On the morning of 9 September 2022, I, like many Australians woke up to the news that the Queen had died.
14. I was emotionally distraught and was glued to the TV watching her life's history, knowing this would impact many Australians. As an Australian Senator, I swore my allegiance to the Queen, an oath that I have solemnly made each time I was elected. I also recall doing this each morning on parade as a child as the flag was raised and we sang God Save the Queen.
15. As was true for the overwhelming majority of Australians at the time, the Queen was the only monarch of Australia during my life. Like many Australians, I saw her as a sign of constancy – someone who was there during the many ups and downs of my life. I had many good memories of watching her Christmas Message and seeing her on the news.
16. The Queen was also a woman of service. When she was very young, she promised to be devoted to her subjects - and it was so clear to me that she was. In my view, she worked so hard to help people, which I respected probably because of the appreciation for the work ethic that my parents instilled in me. Even in her 90s, when most people are unable to work, I observed that the Queen was still busily attending engagements and fulfilling her duties. I remember her in the last days of her life meeting the incoming Prime Minister. She was two days away from dying and she was standing up, meeting the Prime Minister, looking elegant as ever.



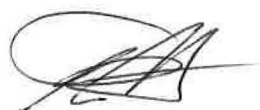
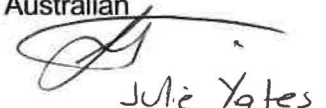
Julie Yates

17. The Queen's devotion to her people made many of them love her. Like many other Australians, I loved her too.

### The Faruqi Tweet

18. Later on 9 September 2022, I became aware that Senator Faruqi posted the Faruqi Tweet.
19. I don't remember the time that the Faruqi Tweet was posted, but my lawyers tell me it was 11:51am AEST.
20. Since Ms Faruqi became an Australian Senator I have been aware of her Twitter account and have followed her tweets. As at September 2022 I was familiar with the sort of posts that Senator Faruqi often made. I had observed that she often made offensive comments.
21. I was disgusted with the Faruqi Tweet and disgusted by Senator Faruqi for posting it.
22. I could not believe that Senator Faruqi would use the hours after a woman's death to say such terrible things about her. Many people across the world were still coming to grips with losing the Queen. But at a time of international and national mourning, Senator Faruqi did not even have the respect to wait a day before viciously insulting her. Even if Senator Faruqi didn't like the Queen, she couldn't even respect the fact that many Australians did.
23. I was also disgusted with what I considered to be Senator Faruqi's hypocrisy:
- (a) To become a senator, Senator Faruqi swore or affirmed that she would be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Queen. That is a promise to the Australian people. But throughout her time as a senator, Senator Faruqi showed that this promise meant nothing to her. The straw that broke the camel's back was Senator Faruqi saying a few hours after the death of the Queen that she was the "*leader of a racist empire built on stolen lives, land and wealth of colonised peoples*". If she believed that, why did she make a solemn vow to be faithful and bear true allegiance to the leader of this "*racist empire*"?
  - (b) Senator Faruqi has benefitted enormously from her position in this "*racist empire*". I knew that she:
    - i. was a member of the NSW Legislative Council a number of years;
    - ii. had been a Senator of the Commonwealth Senate since 2018;
    - iii. owned multiple investment properties in New South Wales.

Compared to a lot of my constituents who are doing it tough, Senator Faruqi is exceptionally wealthy. Much of that wealth has been funded by the Australian

Julie Yates

taxpayer given her positions in public office for about a decade. I had no problem with her being wealthy. But what I did have a problem with is her hypocrisy. My view was that - if she thinks Australia is part of a racist empire built on stolen wealth of colonised peoples, then she should stop taking hundreds of thousands of dollars of that stolen wealth every year. If she thinks Australia is built on stolen land, then she should return one or more of her numerous investment properties to Aboriginal communities in the area.

24. I was also disgusted with the Faruqi Tweet because I believed so much of it was false, misleading or insincere:
- (a) Senator Faruqi said "*Condolences to those who knew the Queen*" and then began insulting her. If a person says "*condolences*" and then viciously insults the dead person, the person is not sincerely offering their condolences. It's like starting a sentence with "*no offence*" and then saying something horribly offensive.
  - (b) Senator Faruqi said "*I cannot mourn the leader of a racist empire built on stolen lives, land and wealth of colonised peoples*". It was insincere for the reasons I have given in the previous paragraph.
  - (c) Senator Faruqi said "*We are reminded of the urgency of Treaty with First Nations, justice & reparations for British colonies & becoming a republic*". I do not understand how the Queen dying is a reminder of nearly all of those things. It makes no sense. The name of the king or queen has nothing to do with a treaty with Aboriginal people or justice or reparations for British colonies.

### **The Hanson Tweet**

25. I wrote the Hanson Tweet because as an elected senator:
- (a) I wanted to respond to the hypocritical, false, misleading and insincere Faruqi Tweet;
  - (b) I wanted to stand up for the values of many of my constituents and many people across Australia; and
  - (c) I wanted to stand up for an institution that Senator Faruqi had decided to attack.
26. I have come to know and believe that there two widely held attitudes amongst the people of Queensland and the people of Australia more broadly.
27. First, most people love Australia. It doesn't really matter how tough they're doing it. They still love this country. They love our way of life, our climate, our sports, our food, our landscapes, our personality, our prosperity and often, our monarchy. Even if people think we should become a republic, they often still like the Royal family and respect their place




in Australia's history. Most people saw the Queen as part of the Australian character. While ordinary people think there are ways that Australia should be improved, they will not stand for other people attacking Australia with vile insults.

28. Second, most people hate lack of self-awareness in politicians - a lot of ordinary people are doing it really tough. I represent many working class people who struggle to keep themselves and their families fed. They can only dream of being in Parliament being paid hundreds of thousands of dollars per year, and owning multiple properties. They feel like most politicians are in it for themselves and won't do anything that will actually help them. So I believed they would be outraged (like I was) when a politician like Senator Faruqi, with her high paying job and multiple properties, was complaining about a racist empire built on stolen wealth.
29. As a Senator, I represent these people and wanted to make a public statement to say what I believed they would be thinking.
30. I also knew that Senator Faruqi had frequently made inflammatory and provocative statements about her beliefs prior to the publication of the Faruqi Tweet. It was my view at the time that she posted such statements because she wanted to offend and/or provoke a response.
31. On 9 September 2022, after the Faruqi Tweet was posted, I had a phone conversation with one of my staff members about it. I dictated the words of a tweet that I wanted posted in response and I believed those words to be true at the time the Hanson Tweet was published.
32. I chose the words in the Hanson Tweet for the following reasons:
- (a) *Your attitude appalls and disgusts me:* I was appalled and disgusted by Senator Faruqi's attitude for all of the reasons I have given above.
  - (b) *When you immigrated to Australia you took every advantage of this country. You took citizenship, bought multiple homes, and a job in parliament:* I wanted to make the point that Senator Faruqi had received enormous advantages of the "racist empire" she was now criticising, for the reasons given above.
  - (c) *"It's clear you're not happy, so pack your bags and piss off back to Pakistan":* Contrary to what Senator Faruqi suggests, I was not saying "go back to where you came from" because of her racial characteristics. There is nothing about Senator Faruqi's race, colour or origin that means she should not be in Australia - it was her attitude that was the problem - her attitude to towards Australia and Australians.



Julie Yates

What I was saying was if she thought Australia was such a terrible place (because she made a public statement that it was a racist empire built on stolen lives, land and wealth of colonised peoples), then she should go somewhere else. I said the words "*back to Pakistan*" because that's where she happened to be from. If she were from the UK, I would have said "*piss off back to the UK*". If she were from New Zealand, I would have said "*piss off back to New Zealand*". If she were born in Australia, I would have said "*piss off somewhere else*" or chosen a country that I thought fit what she was saying and said "*piss off*" there.

I believed that it didn't matter whether a person saying disgraceful things about Australia was from here or not. I believed that whether you were lucky enough to be born here or lucky enough to be able to move your life here, you should be loyal to and grateful for Australia. I believed that Australia is a beautiful, prosperous and successful country. I did not believe that it was part of a racist empire. My belief was that if you – a migrant or someone born here – are not happy in this country, you should go and find a country that suits you.

33. I believed what I said in the Hanson Tweet to be true. It was an honest expression of my beliefs at the time and as at the date of this affidavit.
34. Having regard to Senator Faruqi's own record of inflammatory and provocative statements and social media posts, I thought she would take my criticism on the chin.
35. I don't remember the time that the Hanson Tweet was posted, but my lawyers tell me it was 4:05pm.
36. I take full responsibility for the Hanson Tweet as if I posted it.
37. I did not ask for it to be posted because of Senator Faruqi's race, colour or national or ethnic origin. As I explain above, I published the Hanson Tweet because of:
  - (a) the death of the Queen;
  - (b) Senator Faruqi's position as an Australian politician;
  - (c) the appalling and misleading content of the Faruqi Tweet;
  - (d) Senator Faruqi's hypocrisy described above;
  - (e) my role as an Australian Senator and a representative of my constituents.
38. I considered the death of the Queen to be a matter of public interest, and Senator Faruqi's Tweet and views about the matter to also be a matter of public interest at the time I caused the publication of the Hanson Tweet.




Sworn / Affirmed by the deponent  
at Gloucester  
in New South Wales  
on Thursday 18 January 2011  
Before me: Julie Yates

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Signature of deponent



Signature of witness The Justice of The Peace,  
No: 102486.

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## NOTICE OF FILING

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Date Accepted for Filing: 18/01/2024 5:46:15 PM AEDT  
File Number: NSD372/2023  
File Title: MEHREEN FARUQI v PAULINE HANSON  
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*Sia Lagos*

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