

Please find below answers to questions as discussed.

1. Why did you allege Suzanne Lawrence was the head of North West Community Services (formerly known as Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre) and repeatedly refer to it as 'her organisation' when it is registered as an association with ASIC and regulated by Fair Trading NSW?

a. On what basis do you believe Ms Lawrence was the 'head of the organisation'?

Ms Lawrence was a senior and long-involved member of an organisation that received \$50,000 of public money as a direct result of her relationship with a Member of Parliament, for which a conflict of interest was not declared.

2. Can you confirm that when you met with Ms Lawrence before the election it was exclusively in her capacity as part of North West Community Services?

Ms Lawrence visited me with Angela Van Dyke, also of North West Community Services, to discuss funding matters regarding that organisation. Incidental other matters were also discussed as detailed in my evidence to the committee.

3. Can you please provide further detail on your evidence suggesting that Ms Lawrence was seeking the specific amount of \$50,000 'to enable her organisation to carry on and do the good work that it does'?

a. Do you have further information on what specifically the funding requested was to be used for?

Ms Lawrence asked for advice regarding how the organisation could obtain \$50,000 in funding. I advised that I could not assist as I was not the local MP for her organisation's area. Upon finding out about this Labor Party grant, whereby organisations were contacted by MPs (in this case a close friend), promised money, and conflicts of interest were not investigated unless self-declared (as occurred in only 17 electorates), I would suggest that the \$50,000 was quickly forthcoming.

4. Why did you say that you were not aware of which projects were being funded in your electorate under the Local Small Commitments Allocation program when the projects for your electorate are listed on the government website under the headline, "Local Small Commitments Allocation - Grants Approved"? (See: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/lscs/local-small-commitments-allocation-program-%E2%80%93-approved-grants>)

I stated in evidence I was not aware what the money was being spent on in my electorate, which was the truth. Quietly placing funding allocations on some small corner of the internet is not an acceptable level of communicating local grant recipients with local MPs.

5. Is it your testimony that at no time you have been contacted by your local council or relevant Government Departments regarding the LSCA?

I do not recall any such discussions. Regardless, a grant process that is only open to one side of politics does not provide local MPs of another side with adequate information as to its purpose or integrity.

6. In your assessment as the local MP for Kellyville, does the current allocation process ensure that funds are used to benefit local communities in the most effective manner possible?

No it certainly does not. Any grant which is up to the sole discretion of MPs or candidates from one side of politics, and which has no ability for community organisations to make public applications for, nor has an open tender process cannot by definition be efficacious or represent value for money. As

proven in my testimony, and that of others, there was no integrity to this process, and deep conflicts of interest were able to slip through the cracks.

Best regards,



The Office Of

**Ray Williams MP**  
**Member for Kellyville**

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