

Background

The Commission of Inquiry has recently heard that:

a. At the Senior Leaders Conference held in Brisbane in March this year, then Superintendent Ray Rohweder was present in the audience when the Master of Ceremonies, who had a visible injury to his face, said, "it was a rough promotional process". Superintendent Rohweder called out, "Did she shut her legs on you?".

b. At the Commanders Conference held at Brisbane in June this year, Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor was making a speech when he referred to himself or someone else as a "vagina-whisperer".

Questions

1. What date was the Senior Leaders Conference held?
 - 15 & 16 March 2022

2. Are the matters set out in paragraph (a), including the words used by both people, accurate?
 - a. If not, what is the accurate account?
 - The account is accurate. The precise words of "it was a rough promotional process" may not have been said however reference to the promotional system was made by the Master of Ceremonies.

3. What date was the Commanders Conference held?
 - 28 and 29 April 2022

4. Are the matters set out in paragraph (b), including the words used, accurate? a. If so, what was the context in which the term "vagina-whisperer" was used?
 - b. If not, what is the accurate account of what was said?
 - The account is accurate with the exception that the Deputy Commissioner was not referring to himself; rather the reference was made within a story about a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at James Cook University, who self-describes – and is known amongst his colleagues – as "the vagina whisperer." The professor is a close friend of DC Taylor.

5. Were you present when the comments were made?
 - No, I was not present.

6. If not, were they later brought to your attention?
 - a. If so, when and by whom?
 - Yes, in relation to a. DC Linford was briefed on 21 March, and shortly afterwards briefed the Commissioner.
 - Yes, in relation to b. On 11 May 2022, A/Commissioner Gollschewski briefed the Commissioner, who was then overseas.

7. What action did you take in relation to the comments?
 - The matters were immediately assessed by ESC, and it was determined that the conduct did not meet the threshold for "misconduct", but was disciplinable conduct. In the case of the Deputy Commissioner, there were assessment enquiries by senior officers in ESC to obtain versions from a number of witnesses.
 - Both persons were subject to Local Managerial Resolution.
 - An Assistant Commissioner signed the LMR for the Chief Superintendent and the Commissioner signed the LMR for the Deputy Commissioner.

- In the case of the Chief Superintendent, the LMR involved:
 - Guidance and counselling regarding the inappropriate comment by AC Innes on 23 March 2022.
- In the case of the Deputy Commissioner, the LMR involved:
 - Guidance and counselling on the use of inappropriate language delivered by the Commissioner to the Deputy Commissioner of 10 June 2022.

8. Has Ray Rohweder subsequently been promoted to Chief Superintendent?

a. If so, when did that occur?

- At the time of the conference, Ray Rohweder was an Acting Chief Superintendent, and was appointed permanently as Chief Superintendent on 13 July 2022.