

OP GRAND

QUEENSLAND
CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION

EXHIBIT No. 184
CLERK

Crime and Misconduct Act 2001
[Section 75]

STATEMENT OF JAMES RAPTIS

1. I am the Managing Director of Rapcivic Contractors Pty Ltd and am authorised to provide this Statement.
2. This Statement is provided in response to a section 75 Notice to Discover dated 12 August 2005, issued by the Crime and Misconduct Commission.
3. The schedule to this Statement identifies (and attaches) documentation relevant to the section 75 Notice in respect of donations or contributions made in the lead up to the Gold Coast City Council elections of 27 March 2004. The schedule discloses documentation not only relevant to Rapcivic Contractors Pty Ltd but to any other related entity within the Raptis Group of companies (Raptis Group).
4. The Raptis Group is actively involved in the business and commercial life of the Gold Coast. As a result, our organisation is frequently the subject of requests for contributions or assistance from community and charity groups as well as people or political parties running for public office.
5. It has been a policy of the Raptis Group to endeavour to reasonably assist whenever such requests are made. Some examples of recent assistance provided to community or charity groups include:-

• Gold Coast Ambassadors Awards	\$5,000.00
• 2005 Gold Coast Show	\$2,000.00
• Surfers Paradise State School Aerobics Team	\$2,000.00
• Queensland Police Citizens Youth Club	\$250.00
• Paradise Kids 2004 Christmas Party	\$1,000.00
• Queensland Orchestra	\$20,000.00
• Queensland Ballet	\$20,000.00

• Gold Coast Jazz Festival	\$2,000.00
• Rosies Fundraiser	\$400.00
• Ceramic Arts Award	\$5,000.00
• Gold Coast Arts Centre	\$5,000.00
• Cystic Fibrosis	\$5,000.00
• Apollo Soccer Club	\$8,000.00
• Mudgeeraba Junior Aussie Rules Club	\$1,000.00
• Queensland Police Legacy Scheme	
- Child Safety Handbook	\$396.00
• Multi-Cultural families Organisation	
-Harmony Day	\$1,500.00
• Salvation Army	\$5,000.00

In addition, there are numerous approaches for small amounts for various charities and community clubs organising fun days like the Rotary Club, Lions Club, MS Society etc.


6. In the past, the Raptis Group has been contacted by political parties or candidates at Federal, State and Local levels of government seeking some form of corporate assistance with pending election campaigns.
7. At the local Council level, there is no party political structure. Consequently, in the past, the Raptis Group has been contacted by or on behalf of numerous and varied individuals standing for election.
8. These approaches have been met with a favourable response from time to time, but represent something of an administrative nuisance for the Raptis Group as there are so many potential candidates standing for election at any time.
9. Prior to the 2004 Council election, I was contacted by Tony Hickey Solicitor of Hickey Lawyers. In the past, Mr Hickey has provided certain legal assistance to the Raptis Group. During the conversation Mr Hickey indicated that he was seeking donations to be placed into a trust fund and were to be allocated to candidates standing in the 2004 election. Mr Hickey indicated that a figure of \$10,000.00 would be a welcome contribution.

10. I responded to Mr Hickey with words to the effect of "this is a bit rich", but I reluctantly agreed to make the contribution on the understanding that by doing so, our organisation would not be approached by significant numbers of potential candidates, seeking assistance towards their own campaigns on an individual and ad hoc basis. A contribution to the trust fund on this basis, would have been advantageous because, as stated earlier, individual requests for assistance represent an administrative nuisance for the Raptis Group.
11. There was no discussion about the manner in which the funds would be distributed from the trust nor was there a discussion about the candidates who would be the beneficiaries of those funds.
12. My dealings were with Mr Tony Hickey and I had no contact with Paul Wesley Brinsmead. The names Lionel Barden or Lionel Barden Common Sense Campaign Fund or Lionel Barden Commonsense Trust or the Common Sense Trust, were never mentioned to be.
13. A cheque was drawn on the Rapcivic Contractors Pty Ltd Account on 18 February 2004 in the amount of \$10,000.00 payable to Hickey Lawyers Trust Account. A receipt was subsequently issued on 19 February 2004 from Hickey Lawyers in respect of the \$10,000.00 cheque noting the following code:

"245881:Sue Robbins Counsellor and David Power Cou".
14. I cannot recall any discussion between myself or Mr Hickey, in the context of this donation, about Counsellors Sue Robbins or David Power.
15. In the course of the 2004 election campaign, there were some further personal approaches made to the Raptis Group from individual candidates, notwithstanding the donation to the Hickey Lawyers fund. Consequently, further donations were made to the campaigns of:-
 - Max Christmas; and
 - Rob Molhoek.

16. Annexed to this Statement are relevant receipts issued by the campaign committees of Max Christmas and Rob Molhoek.
17. The contributions made to the campaigns of Max Christmas and Rob Molhoek were contributions made not by Rapcivic Contractors Pty Ltd but by related companies within the Raptis Group, specifically Noraville Pty Ltd, Bernaise Pty Ltd and Bindaley Pty Ltd.
18. Our group also made a contribution of \$10,000.00 to the re-election campaign of the then mayor Mr Garry Baildon. This donation was made following an approach to the Raptis Group by Mr Baildon's campaign committee. I am unsure if a receipt ever issued, but have been unable to locate a copy of same, if it did issue.
19. Apart from the direct donations referred to earlier in this statement, I am unaware of the manner or means by which the \$10,000.00 donation to Hickey Lawyers Trust Account was disbursed. No inducements or promises were made by Mr Hickey at the time when he contacted me for the purposes of seeking a contribution to his fund.
20. To the best of my knowledge, belief and recollection the abovementioned donations were the full extent of the donations made by the Raptis Group to candidates standing in the 2004 Gold Coast City Council elections.

Dated this 22nd day of August 2005.


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JAMES RAPTIS

R/RAPCIVIC CONTRACTORS PTY LTD R/PACVIC CONTRACTORS PTY LTD R/PACVIC CONTRACTORS PTY LTD R/PACVIC CONTRACTORS PTY LTD R/PACVIC CONTRACTORS PTY LTD
 A.B.N. 91 079 914 172
National Bank Limited
 SURFER'S PARADISE 3200 GOLD COAST QLD
 22/02/01
 08/02/01
 thousand dollars and no cents
 TO THE ORDER OF
 THE BOX OFFICE
 BUNDABERG MAIL CENTRE
 BUNDABERG QLD 4700
 NATIONAL BANK LIMITED

@ 229281 @ 084 @ 93 @ 68855 @ 0851 @

SN

HICKEY LAWYERS

045181

QNG

OFFICIAL RECEIPT

DATE

RECEIVED FROM

BANK

BN: NAB

AMOUNT

BR: Surfers Paradise

19-02-2004 Rapticiv Contractors Pty Ltd

THE SUM OF		DOLLARS							CENTS
TENS MILLIONS	MILLIONS	HUND. THOUSANDS	TEN THOUSANDS	THOUSANDS	HUNDREDS	TENS	UNITS		
NIL***	NIL***	NIL***	ONE***	NIL***	NIL***	NIL***	NIL***	00	

*****10000.00

DETAILS

245821 : Sue Robbins Councillor & David Power Cou
 00001 : GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL -ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND
 Reason : Donation

Tender Type : Cheque

Hickey Lawyers TRUST ACCOUNT

