

Questions to Seven:

Media Watch is looking at recent reporting related to **Seven's** Spotlight program. In particular, **we're** interested in stories about how a Seven producer who was involved in negotiations with Bruce Lehrmann for an exclusive interview used **Seven's** credit card to book two Thai masseuses, one for the Seven employee and one for Bruce Lehrmann. The cost of Mr **Lehrmann's** massage was reportedly \$1000 and the total cost billed to Seven on the credit card that night was \$2940.

In relation to these reports, **we're** hoping you can respond to the following questions:

1. When did this incident come to Seven's attention?
2. What if anything was done as a result?
3. Was the Spotlight producer who used the Seven credit card to book the Thais masseuses Taylor Auerbach (as the SMH has reported) and was he disciplined in any way?
4. Auerbach remained at Spotlight for at least 7 months after the incident. Why?
5. Was the credit card/masseuses incident the reason why Taylor Auerbach lost his job at Seven?

Response from Seven spokesperson:

"As has been reported in the press, the misuse of the credit card was admitted by the person involved straight away and all unauthorised expenses were repaid immediately by the person.

The person involved was disciplined at the time and no longer works for the company.

For confidentiality and privacy reasons we cannot link to any particular name."

Follow-up question to Seven:

We have an additional question, in relation to **Seven's** Spotlight and the Bruce Lehrmann exclusive.

Our question goes to claims that a Seven producer booked two Thai masseuses (one for himself and one for Bruce Lehrmann), costing almost \$3k and paid for on the company credit card, as negotiations were underway to secure an exclusive interview with Mr Lehrmann.

Can you please provide a response asap to this question:

Will you be making changes to the methods used by Spotlight to obtain exclusive interviews?

25 March 2024

Response from Seven spokesperson:

“Your question is absurd. There is no method. As stated, it was a personal misuse of the card, immediately admitted to and paid for personally.”