Response from Stewart Levitt:

I did not tell Channel 9, and it would have been a lie if I had, that the Supreme Court awarded any money to fraudulent claimants.

What I relevantly told Channel 9's Alex Heinke:

Firstly, I am not the lawyer who signed the compensation cheques on behalf of the State Government. Damages were paid into our trust account by the Queensland government, for payment by me as the scheme administrator.

I did say that there was a vetting process in respect of claimants. In the process of obtaining statements we found a few people whose claims did not stack up and they were rejected. As I told Heinke, we do not believe that anybody wrongly received any money. People were compensated who were not on the island at the time because they were unlawfully barred from returning to the island, which sometimes meant that parents were separated from their children and led to other situations which caused considerable emotional suffering and inconvenience over several days. No one who registered as a claimant, to the best of my recollection, was in prison at the time and only one person had died after becoming a victim but before the positive verdict. That person's estate is eligible to receive the money, which has not yet been distributed to the estate. The number of people who provided a story which did not stack up for compensation was fewer than five out of about four hundred and fifty people (approximately 1%). I would expect at least that percentage of bogus claimants in relation to any claim for compensation, regardless of the claimants' race.

I did not tell Nine News that any of the claimants did not exist. This is entirely false. No money is being redirected from "dodgy" claimants or people who do not exist to anyone, let alone \$3 million. There were two references made to around "\$3 million". The first was that "around \$3m" corresponded to the balance of compensation which remains to be distributed (including the remainder of administration costs). The second was that \$3 million equalled the approximate legal costs and disbursements of running the class action, as agreed with the Queensland Government and approved by the Court.

Mr Heinke appears to have confabulated facts into a piece which entirely distorts reality. I would welcome the ABC obtaining a tape of the interview (if it could be heard over the ambient traffic noise, which was exceptional for a day in the life of the COVID-19 virus).