



CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

MEDIA STATEMENT

\$186,000 theft was preventable says CCC report

15.12.10

More than \$186,000 was stolen from a Princess Margaret Hospital café by an employee because recommendations from a 2002 review had not been implemented according to a Corruption and Crime Commission report tabled in Parliament today.

The report said the 2002 review contained recommendations to tighten money handling procedures at the Kite Café where the employee, codenamed Ms A, was employed as a leading hand for more than 10 years.

In September she was sentenced in the District Court to 18 months jail suspended for two years on two charges of stealing from the Café. It is estimated in the report that she spent almost \$260,000 on skin care creams over five years which the court attributed to an obsessive compulsive disorder.

Commissioner Len Roberts-Smith QC said that in August 2009 the Commission received a report that Ms A was suspected of stealing money from the café.

“Initially, this appeared to be a relatively simple case of someone stealing as a servant and a criminal investigation could have resulted in a charge of stealing a small amount of money.

“However, as the Commission investigation progressed – which involved surveillance at the Café – there were indications the thefts had been occurring over several years and involved a substantial sum of money.

“This led to an examination of the procedures at the Café and recommendations to improve them, in addition to charges before the court.

“This shows the advantage of the broader type of investigation that the Commission can undertake as opposed to a straight criminal investigation.”

The Commissioner noted that a Commission report tabled in April 2010 on the handling of misconduct in the Department of Health stated that the Department and Princess Margaret Hospital did not have an effective misconduct management mechanism.

The recommendations on Princess Margaret Hospital in the current report either have been or are being implemented by WA Health.

The report is available at

<http://www.ccc.wa.gov.au/Publications/Reports/Pages/PublishedReports2010.aspx>

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