

Lieta's Responses to the Senate Committee Inquiry of 10/03/2022.

1) Page 2: Talipope's 3rd response - After 2 February and the discussion that we had here we went back to where we were living in Robertson. **Warburton not Robertson.** We were not working. They were planning on moving us to another farm. But we still got paid. I have confirmed the information below with the other workers including Talipope and Aleki. **We did not receive any pay for the time we were away Monday 31/1/22 to Thursday 3/02/22. We were also told that we were not working on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th February because we weren't rostered on as they didn't know where we were. We went back to work on Sunday 6/2/22 until Friday 11/2/22.**

2) On 03/02/2022, my friend _____ and I drove the 6 workers back to Warburton. We were about 2 hours away when Rob Hay of Madec rang and spoke to Talipope. The following conversation occurred as we all listened on speaker:

Talipope – Hello Rob

Rob Hay – Hello. Where are you?

Talipope – We are in the car driving back home.

Rob Hay – Where were you?

Talipope – We told you before we were going to Canberra.

Rob Hay – You have been recorded as absconded.

Talipope – What is that?

Rob Hay – Are you coming back?

Talipope – We are about 2 hours away (with my help)

Rob Hay – Are you coming back to work?

Talipope – Yes we are coming to work tomorrow

Rob Hay – Ok see you when you come home

Soon after our arrival at Warburton, Rob arrived, so we sat down with all the workers to clarify a few issues. One of which was Rob's question on absconding. Once again he said, Madec has you down as absconded. The workers looked at me and looked at Rob.

I asked Rob if he understood that the workers had no idea what that word absconded meant. I raised my voice and said to Rob that this was the biggest problem the workers were facing – lack of understanding. The fact that they used these big words the workers do not understand, workers are not getting their (Madec's) messages. I then asked Rob why they never bothered to call an interpreter, when they have dealings with the workers. Rob responded that the workers never asked for an interpreter and that they always nod their heads to indicate they understand. I got cranky and told Rob that Madec as the employer has the responsibility to call an interpreter when dealing with the workers. Rob went on to say that Madec was not aware of the workers' whereabouts. I got very annoyed at Rob's inability to understand that Madec was clearly informed by the workers.

I reminded Rob that on Monday 31/01/2022, when my friend and I were about 20 minutes away from Warburton to pick up the workers, Talipope rang me to say that he (Rob) was at the hotel questioning where they were going, and Talipope told him that they were going to Canberra and that he (Talipope) had informed their team leader Pasefika of their plan to go

to Canberra. Rob recalled that. I also reminded Rob that the reason why he came to the hotel on 31/01/2022 was to stop the workers from going to Canberra. Rob didn't want to respond. I questioned Rob about Madec's instructions for the workers for work the next day. Rob responded he was not aware but he knew that they were down as absconded.

As we were talking, Pasefika came home from work. I walked up to Pasefika and asked him if he had informed Madec before Monday 31/01/2022, that Talipope, Aleki and the others were going to Canberra before that Monday. Pasefika quickly responded YES he had done so before the workers left for Canberra.

4) I have communicated verbally with David Couzner on a number of occasions. He advised that he was the managing director of Madec. I reminded him that the workers were under Parliamentary privilege. He asked me to send an authority from the workers to allow me to advocate and interpret for them. I sent him the signed authority from the 6 workers. I have made several other attempts to communicate in writing with David but he didn't return any of my emails including the email regarding what was said on the Samoan radio program.

3) Both Talipope and Aleki made comments about the fact they had never seen these Madec managers before. They never come to the farm or the hotel.

4) I have volunteered information and evidence for DFAT. So far I haven't received a response from Danielle Heinecke, or . Although I rang twice and spoken to on 15/03/22. He is yet to get back to me, as he had other matters to attend to at the time. I informed him that Talipope and Aleki were still at the hotel in Warburton waiting to hear from someone about relocation. advised he would speak to someone about that and get back to me. I didn't hear back today - 16/03/22.

5) On a couple of occasions prior to 03/03/22, DFAT refused to accept the workers' request to have me as their advocate and interpreter at meetings, even though they had a copy of the signed authority from the workers. Madec was present at one of these meetings. Then rang me on 03/03/22 to invite me as an interpreter, to a meeting with the workers at 2.30pm on the same day. The Consul General of Samoa and the Liaison Officer were in attendance in addition to of DFAT.

Note: Writing in red are corrections.

I also submit comments to clarify some of the communications that went on between Madec and the workers and Madec and myself before and after the first Senate Committee Hearing on 02/02/2022.