

Wednesday 13 February 2013.

INVESTIGATION SHOWS NO IRREGULAR DEALINGS WITH HEALTH PROGRAM PROVIDER

A report tabled at last night's Council meeting as part of a Mayoral Minute shows no irregularity in the City of Ryde's association with Direct Health Solutions and Streetscape Projects.

The report was in response to a suggestion in the media of improper links between the Council, Council staff and Obeid family operated companies.

The report found that:

- Direct Health Solutions provided health and wellbeing programs to the Council between 2006 and 2009.
- The programs included an Absence Management System and other health support services for staff.
- No other company at the time provided a comparable service.
- The Executive Team reviewed the proposal, including case studies, and discussed the proposal with Unions.
- Due to the quantum and nature of the service, no company search was undertaken. Council's Procurement Policy requires company searches for major tenders or for known sensitive projects/services.
- City of Ryde engaged DHS on a 12 month trial basis for a fee of \$50,000 (50% of the normal fee).
- The General Manager of the time acted within his delegated powers.
- After a 12 month review and an employee survey DHS contract was extended.
- In 2009 Council called for Expressions of Interest and a new provider was appointed.
- Total payment to DHS, including costs of running staff wellbeing day (blood pressure test, cholesterol, glucose) was \$180,216.64 exc GST.

In relation to Streetscape Projects, the report found that:

- In 2008 Council called a number of tenders for the installation of multifunction poles.
- Three tenders were awarded, one of which was to Streetscape Projects for \$178,754 for Macquarie Park Station.
- Total payment to Streetscape Projects between 2006 to 2011 totalled \$988,267.
- In addition to the Macquarie Park Station tender, Council had purchased various products including smart poles, park poles and various supporting equipment from Streetscape.
- The procurement process adopted throughout this time has been either through the call of public tenders or quotations from Council's preferred providers. This has ensured the best value has been achieved for the community.

Council has requested the Acting General Manager to continue with the proposed independent investigation into these matters.