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SUPPLIED IN CONFIDENCE TO THE NSW I.C.A.C.

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# [Service NSW 2021 COVID-19 Micro Business Grant] 'Retrospective Clawback and Extortion Scam'

[2022 - present]



## Witness Personal Account and Victim Impact Statement [Complainant #11]

The following written evidence received from Steven Ridd by email to [steve@naturetrail.com.au](mailto:steve@naturetrail.com.au) .

[Emails (most recent at top)]

### START OF EVIDENCE

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**NOTE: We are trying to regain contact with Mel and obtain the correspondence she has received from Service NSW.**

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, 23 June 2024 12:01 PM  
To: [steve@naturetrail.com.au](mailto:steve@naturetrail.com.au)  
Subject: covid 19 grant audit stuff

Hi Steve

My name is Mel. I came across your story on the covid 19 grants audit and i am also in the same boat and from Katoomba.

I was wondering if you can give me any tips on how to deal with this?

I am a small massage business that's been operating up here for over 15 years. I only got the audit letter recently and i fall just short of the 30000 they say because of shutting down for 4 months or so. Im so upset about it and can't pay back 15000 that i dont have.

Anyway it looks like you really knew what you were doing and i would love any support you can throw my way.

I only took the grant because my accountant said i should be ok.....but now 5 years later its coming back to bit me on the back side.

Kind regards

Mel

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End of supplied evidence

This document submitted by Steven Ridd, Managing Director, Wistmans Wood Holdings Pty Limited [ACN 600 331 931] as trustee for Wistmans Wood Trust [ABN 51 965 308 493 ] trading as Nature Trail. Registered Address: 5 Kundibar Street KATOOMBA NSW 2780.]

By email [icac@icac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:icac@icac.nsw.gov.au)



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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION  
AGAINST CORRUPTION

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