

# ANZ apologises after forcing employee to talk about her sex life, rape as a teenager

 [dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5976317/ANZ-apologises-forcing-employee-talk-sex-life-rape-teenager.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5976317/ANZ-apologises-forcing-employee-talk-sex-life-rape-teenager.html)

The chief executive of ANZ Bank has said he will apologise to a former senior trader who was forced to recount intimate details about her sex life and prior sexual abuse after making allegations of workplace sexual and racial harassment.

The woman, who told the Sydney Morning Herald she did not want to be named, was interrogated by the bank's lawyers as part of its defence against the allegations of harassment at the ANZ New York office.

Shayne Elliott said information gained from these interrogations would not be used in the upcoming trial and he would personally apologise to the woman involved as 'a serious line was crossed'.

The former ANZ executive who filed a multi-million dollar workplace discrimination claim said she was hounded about how many sexual partners she'd had while at a team dinner where members of management were present and that male staff members bragged openly about attending sex bars.

She also alleges one senior manager would 'openly rate the 'racks' of women' and told a female colleague she 'can suck my d\*\*k' when she complained how he handled a trade.

A transcript of a deposition, which was made available last month, revealed lawyers for ANZ grilled the executive about her sexual history, the number of sexual partners she'd had and her activities outside of work, the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

The woman was also forced to recount the sexual abuse she suffered at university, whether she had sought psychiatric assistance and if she had ever had a sexually transmitted disease.

Christopher Lowe, a lawyer for ANZ at the time, defended the bank's harsh line of questioning by implying that the executive may have overreacted.



**Shayne Elliott**  @ElliottShayne ·3h

Replying to [redacted] @ANZ\_AU

I am not blaming the lawyers. I clearly said we should have known their strategy and we did not. We did not manage this properly. We are at fault. No debate.

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**Shayne Elliott**  @ElliottShayne ·3h

Replying to [redacted] @ANZ\_AU

And as I said, I will personally and on behalf of ANZ apologise publicly and privately to the complainant.

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**Shayne Elliott**  @ElliottShayne ·3h

Replying to [redacted] @ANZ\_AU

I agree. I am not defending that in the least. It was wrong. We were wrong. Our people and our lawyers were wrong. A serious line was crossed as you say.

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**Shayne Elliott**  @ElliottShayne ·5h

Replying to [redacted] @ANZ\_AU

I apologise. This is wrong & not acceptable. We were not aware of our external NY lawyers strategy & should have been. We have instructed them that this is not to be used during trial & and I will apologise to the complainant personally.

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However, Mr Elliott said he was not aware of the lawyer's strategy.

'I apologise. This is wrong and not acceptable,' he wrote over Twitter.

'We have instructed them that this is not to be used during trial and I will apologise to the complainant personally.

'For example if I patted my secretary on the bottom she might view that as sexual abuse. If I were to rape her that is also sexual abuse,' he added.

'It was wrong. We were wrong. Our people and our lawyers were wrong'.

During one interrogation, the woman recounted a previous sexual assault experienced whilst taking a bus as a Freshman at an American university.

'I woke up to find the stranger next to me, his hand in my v-----,' she said.

The former trader was also asked about the health of her family, whether she attended sex workshops outside of work, if she had ever been on safari or contracted any sexually transmitted diseases.

Her lawyer Renan Varghese applied to have the testimony removed from the trial, saying his client would be embarrassed and demeaned in front of a jury.

'This disgraceful tactic constitutes a blatant continuation of the harassment and retaliation [the trader] suffered at ANZ,' Mr Varghese said.

An ANZ spokesman said the bank was disappointed in the line of questioning used by their external lawyers and that any past sexual history or abuse was not relevant to the defence and would not be raised as part of the trial.

The matter will be put to a jury trial in September this year and follows other recent allegations the bank has fostered a toxic culture of sexism and drug use.