CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

McClymont Tells Court Alleged Victims Received No Payment

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 7



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 The former radio broadcaster Alan Jones faces allegations of indecent assault, and the chief investigative reporter for the Sydney Morning Herald has testified in court that the alleged victims who shared their experiences with her gained nothing financially from either her or her employer. Kate McClymont, a recipient of ten Walkley awards recognising her work in journalism, appeared before Judge Glenn Walsh at the Downing Centre local court to describe the conduct of her reporting. Under questioning by the defence barrister, McClymont stated that commercial metrics such as readership numbers and advertising revenue were irrelevant to her journalistic process. The consequences of her December 2023 reporting proved far-reaching: New South Wales police formed Strike Force Bonnefin after additional alleged victims came forward in response to those articles. Jones was taken into custody by New South Wales police at his apartment in late 2024, by which time he had been off the air for roughly four years following the end of his high-paying breakfast programme on 2GB. The hearing continues to examine the chain of events linking McClymont's reporting, the police task force, and the current proceedings.

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2 Key words

testified /'testɪfaɪd/ *verb*

To give formal evidence in a court of law, usually under oath and in response to questions.

Several economists testified before the parliamentary committee regarding the proposed tax reforms.

commercial metrics /kə'mɜːʃl 'metrɪks/ *noun*

Quantifiable indicators used to assess the business or financial performance of a publication or media outlet.

The editor argued that commercial metrics alone should not dictate editorial decisions.

far-reaching /ˌfɑː 'riːtʃɪŋ/ *adjective*

Having a wide range of significant and lasting consequences that extend well beyond the immediate context.

The new data protection legislation had far-reaching implications for every company operating across the continent.

custody /'kʌstədi/ *noun*

The state of being held by police or other legal authorities, typically after arrest or before trial.

The suspect was taken into custody following a brief pursuit through the city centre.

proceedings /prə'siːdɪŋz/ *noun*

The formal conduct of a case in a court of law, encompassing all hearings, arguments, and procedural steps.

Legal proceedings against the corporation are expected to continue for several more months.

conduct /'kɒndʌkt/ *noun*

The manner in which a person or organisation behaves or carries out duties, especially in a formal or professional context.

The regulator reviewed the conduct of the firm's senior management following the data breach.

3 Grammar focus

Relative clauses

noun + who / which / where / whose + more information

Relative clauses (who, which, whose, where) add information to a noun. Defining clauses identify it; non-defining clauses, set off by commas, add extra detail.

1. Jones was taken into custody by New South Wales police at his apartment in late 2024, by which time he had been off the air for roughly four years following the end of his high-paying breakfast programme on 2GB.
2. The former radio broadcaster Alan Jones faces allegations of indecent assault, and the chief investigative reporter for the Sydney Morning Herald has testified in court that the alleged victims who shared their experiences with her gained nothing financially from either her or her employer.

Find the noun that each clause describes.

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Understanding Stance and Register in the Courtroom Report

3 points

Read the passage carefully and select the best answer for each question. All answers can be found explicitly or implicitly in the text.

1 What was the purpose of McClymont's testimony regarding commercial metrics?

(a) To argue that the reporting was financially motivated
(b) To demonstrate that profit-driven indicators had no bearing on how she approached the story
(c) To suggest that advertising revenue should be the primary concern of journalism
(d) To show that readership numbers were the main reason the reporting was published

2 According to the text, what was the direct consequence of the December 2023 reporting?

(a) Jones was immediately arrested and charged with indecent assault
(b) Judge Glenn Walsh dismissed the allegations against Jones
(c) Additional alleged victims came forward, prompting police to establish a dedicated task force
(d) The Sydney Morning Herald received ten Walkley awards for the series

3 What does the author's use of the phrase 'chain of events' suggest about the hearing's focus?

(a) The hearing is examining a linear sequence linking the reporting, the task force, and the legal proceedings
(b) The hearing is solely focused on whether the reporting was ethically justified
(c) The hearing is investigating the exact date of Jones's arrest
(d) The hearing is limited to questioning the commercial motives of the newspaper

EXERCISE 2 Factual Retrieval and Paraphrase

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences, using only information from the lesson text.

1 Who questioned McClymont about the commercial metrics of journalism, and what was her stated position?

2 How long had Jones been off the air when he was taken into custody in late 2024?

3 What role does Judge Glenn Walsh play in this hearing, and where does it take place?

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 3 Formal Register and Precise Tense

4 points

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets. Consider the formal register and narrative sequence required for C2 legal reporting.

1. The alleged victims who shared their experiences with McClymont _____ (gain) financially from either her or her employer.
2. Not only _____ (do) , but it also led New South Wales police to form Strike Force Bonnefin.
3. By the time Jones was taken into custody in late 2024, he _____ (be) off the air for roughly four years.
4. Had the defence barrister _____ (not question) about commercial metrics, the relevance of readership numbers and advertising revenue might not have been established as irrelevant to her process.

6 Discussion

Talk with a partner, then share one idea.

EXERCISE 4 Speaking

1. McClymont told the court that commercial metrics were 'irrelevant' to her journalistic process. Do you think a reporter's stated indifference to readership and advertising data strengthens or weakens their credibility as a witness, and why?
2. The passage describes a 'chain of events' linking a news report to a police task force to a legal proceeding. In your view, does journalism carry any responsibility for the downstream consequences of its reporting, or does that responsibility lie entirely with the authorities who act on the information?
3. The text uses the word 'alleged' repeatedly when referring to victims. Consider how the choice between 'alleged victims' and simply 'victims' shapes a reader's perception before a verdict is reached. Is this hedging fair, or does it inadvertently minimise what people experienced?

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Understanding Stance and Register in the Courtroom Report

1. B. To demonstrate that profit-driven indicators had no bearing on how she approached the story The text states that McClymont declared commercial metrics such as readership numbers and advertising revenue were 'irrelevant to her journalistic process,' meaning she argued these profit indicators played no role in how she conducted the reporting.
2. C. Additional alleged victims came forward, prompting police to establish a dedicated task force The passage explicitly states that 'New South Wales police formed Strike Force Bonnefin after additional alleged victims came forward in response to those articles,' linking the reporting directly to the establishment of the task force.
3. A. The hearing is examining a linear sequence linking the reporting, the task force, and the legal proceedings- The phrase 'chain of events linking McClymont's reporting, the police task force, and the current proceedings' indicates a sequential, cause-and-effect examination connecting these three elements.

Exercise 2 Factual Retrieval and Paraphrase

1. McClymont was questioned by the defence barrister. She stated that commercial metrics such as readership numbers and advertising revenue were irrelevant to her journalistic process. The text says 'Under questioning by the defence barrister, McClymont stated that commercial metrics such as readership numbers and advertising revenue were irrelevant to her journalistic process.'
2. Jones had been off the air for roughly four years when he was taken into custody in late 2024, following the end of his high-paying breakfast programme on 2GB. The text states 'he had been off the air for roughly four years following the end of his high-paying breakfast programme on 2GB.'
3. Judge Glenn Walsh is the presiding judge at the Downing Centre local court, where McClymont appeared to describe the conduct of her reporting. The text says McClymont 'appeared before Judge Glenn Walsh at the Downing Centre local court to describe the conduct of her reporting.'

Exercise 3 Formal Register and Precise Tense

1. gained nothing The simple past 'gained nothing' is used here because the action (or non-action) is a completed fact reported in the past tense context of a court hearing summary. In formal legal journalism, the emphatic negative 'gained nothing' is preferred over the auxiliary construction 'did not gain anything' for register consistency.
2. did the December 2023 reporting prompt additional alleged victims to come forward After a negative or restrictive adverbial phrase like 'Not only' at the beginning of a sentence, English requires subject-auxiliary inversion. The past auxiliary 'did' is needed because the reporting event is in the past (December 2023).
3. had been The past perfect 'had been' is required because the state of being off the air started and was ongoing before the later past event (custody in late 2024). The temporal marker 'by the time' signals that one past action precedes another, demanding past perfect.
4. not questioned McClymont The inverted conditional 'Had + subject + not + past participle' is a highly formal construction typical of legal and academic prose at C2 level. It replaces 'If the defence barrister had not questioned...' The past participle 'questioned' follows the auxiliary structure.