

# Metro forced to reinstate sacked station officer amid 'rorts' backflip

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METRO has been ordered to give a long-serving station officer her job back after accusing her of conning money out of the myki card system.

A Fair Work Commission decision said the 57-year-old mum had worked for Metro for 15 years and was brought to the brink of suicide after the investigation and dismissal.

She was based at Parliament Station where she her job was to sell mykis and replace old ones until last year when Metro investigators identified her as the source of 93 "irregular" transactions over seven months.

Her bosses alleged she sold "cloned" used mykis which should have been destroyed, and pocketed \$3-\$6 each time.

The woman, who earned \$33 an hour, strongly denied the claims but was stood down in May and dismissed in July.

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Fair Work Commissioner Nick Wilson this month found Metro had no evidence of theft.

The woman had said the transactions allowing old cards to be re-used could have been caused by another staff member using her login, computer errors, or innocent mistakes.

Commissioner Wilson was critical of Metro bosses' response to the woman's mental health crisis.

In her evidence the woman said the allegations caused her to suffer “significant mental anguish to the point where she wanted to kill herself”, a concern conveyed to Metro.

“They plainly disbelieved what was said about [the woman’s] propensity for self-harm, or saw it as a product of a guilty mind,” Commissioner Wilson said.

Commissioner Wilson ruled the woman was unfairly and unjustly dismissed.

Rail Tram and Bus Union Victorian branch secretary Luba Grigorovitch said the case was “disheartening”.

Ms Grigorovitch said such “aggressive management tactics” should not be tolerated.

Metro spokeswoman Sammie Black said the company had complied with the Fair Work Commission’s decision.

“The employee has returned to work,” Ms Black said.