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## High roller sues Crown: [1 FIRST Edition]

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### Abstract

In his statement of claim, Mr [Wu Guo Wei] said he agreed to lodge \$500,000 with Crown as "front money" and it was paid into an account operated by the junket organiser. He was then issued with five high roller chips worth \$100,000 each.

Mr Wu also claimed Crown lent the junket organiser or someone associated with her a further \$200,000 to continue gambling.

In his writ Mr Wu said that in breach of the verbal contract Crown failed to pay the \$800,000 and allowed his instructions to be countermanded by the junket operator.

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\$800,000 claim against casino

CROWN casino is being sued by a Chinese high roller for \$800,000 he claims was never paid to him after a winning streak last year.

The man claims he was lured to the casino by a high roller junket operator who later went on a \$1 million-plus gambling spree using his winnings.

Mr Wu Guo Wei claims not only did the casino allow the woman to gamble with his money, but they lent her a further \$200,000 to continue playing the tables when his winnings ran out.

In a Supreme Court writ issued this week Mr Wu claimed he and his wife visited Sydney for the Olympic Games. While gambling at Sydney's Star City casino they were approached by the woman and offered an all expenses paid trip to Crown.

The couple flew to Melbourne and a stretch limousine met them at the airport and whisked them to Crown Towers where they enjoyed free accommodation, food and other perks.

In his statement of claim, Mr Wu said he agreed to lodge \$500,000 with Crown as "front money" and it was paid into an account operated by the junket organiser. He was then issued with five high roller chips worth \$100,000 each.

Mr Wu, who now lives in Singapore, said that over three days he won \$600,000 in the Mahogany Room and it was placed in an account which held the \$500,000 "front money".

Mr Wu, who is represented by Melbourne legal firm **Charles Fice**, claimed that at the end of his winning streak he held two chips, one worth \$1 million and another worth \$100,000.

On September 29 he asked Crown to redeem his chips by paying him a \$300,000 cheque and remitting the \$800,000, paid in US dollars, to his account at the Merrill Lynch Bank in Singapore.

But the money never arrived in the bank account and two months later Mr Wu and three friends flew back to Melbourne to find out what happened.

Mr Wu is seeking the return of his \$800,000 or damages for breach of contract, negligence or breach of statutory duty. He has also made a claim for damages for a breach of the Trade Practices Act.

In his statement of claim, Mr Wu said they met Mr Boo A Khoo, Mahogany Room service manager, and he switched on a notebook computer for them.

Mr Wu said it showed Crown had purchased US dollars on September 29 or 30 with what appeared to be his \$800,000 balance.

But four days later Crown converted the money back to Australian dollars and the amount, now \$804,000, was deposited into the junket organiser's account.

The computer also showed, according to the Mr Wu, that on the same day \$1.35 million was removed from the same account for the purposes of gambling at Crown.

Mr Wu also claimed Crown lent the junket organiser or someone associated with her a further \$200,000 to continue gambling.

"Mr Khoo told the plaintiff that the amount depleted in (the junket operator's) account had been lost at the casino," said the statement of claim.

In his writ Mr Wu said that in breach of the verbal contract Crown failed to pay the \$800,000 and allowed his instructions to be countermanded by the junket operator.

Mr Wu claimed Crown knew or had reckless disregard that the junket operator or someone else was misusing the account and that the casino "knowingly and dishonestly assisted in the misappropriation of his money".

Crown yesterday refused to comment on the civil action.

### **Illustration**

Caption: Luxury stay : the man claims he was from Star City.; Photo: Photo

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