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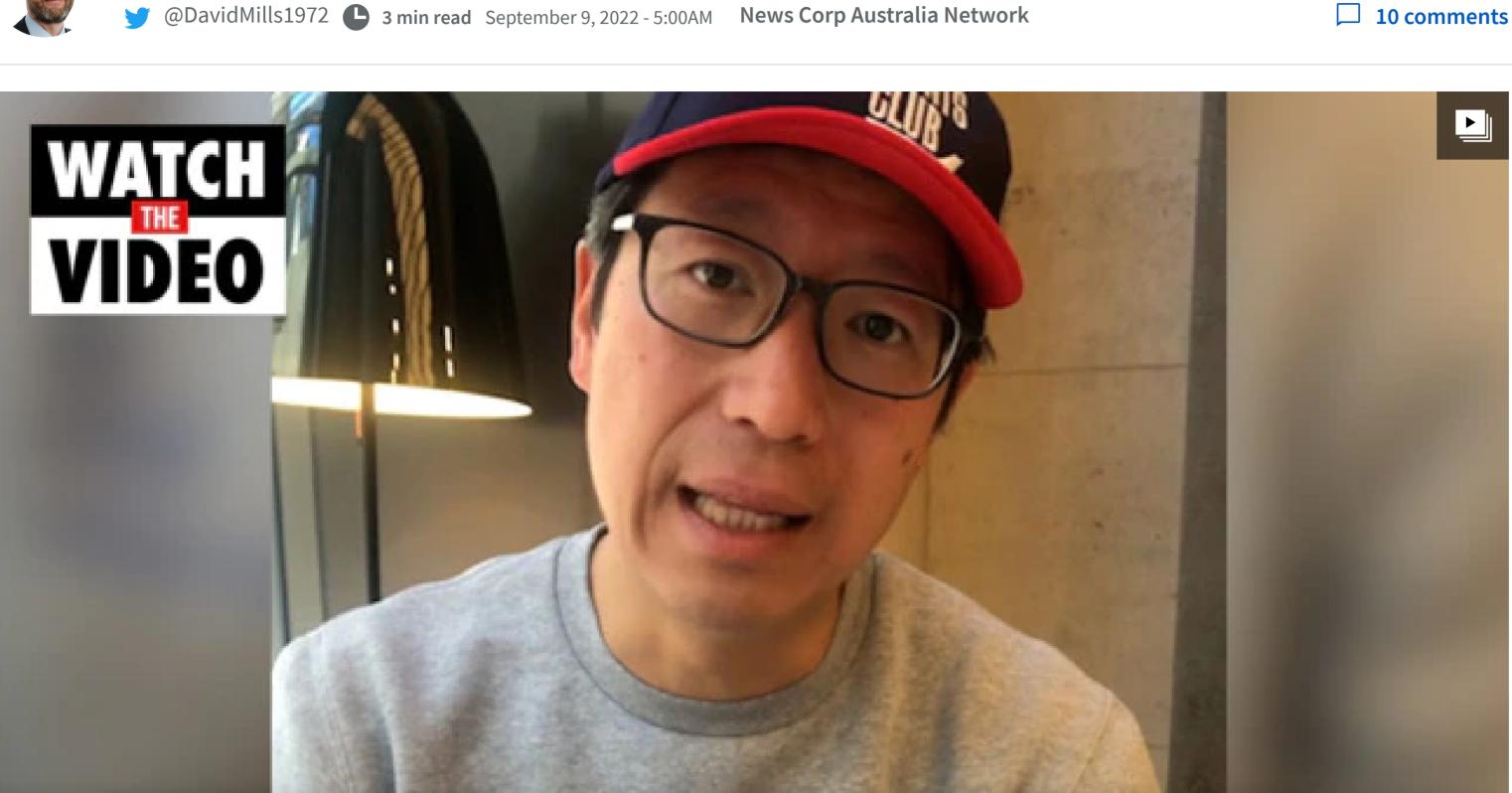
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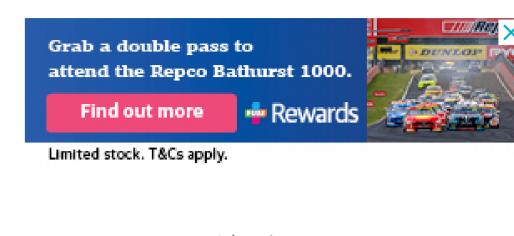
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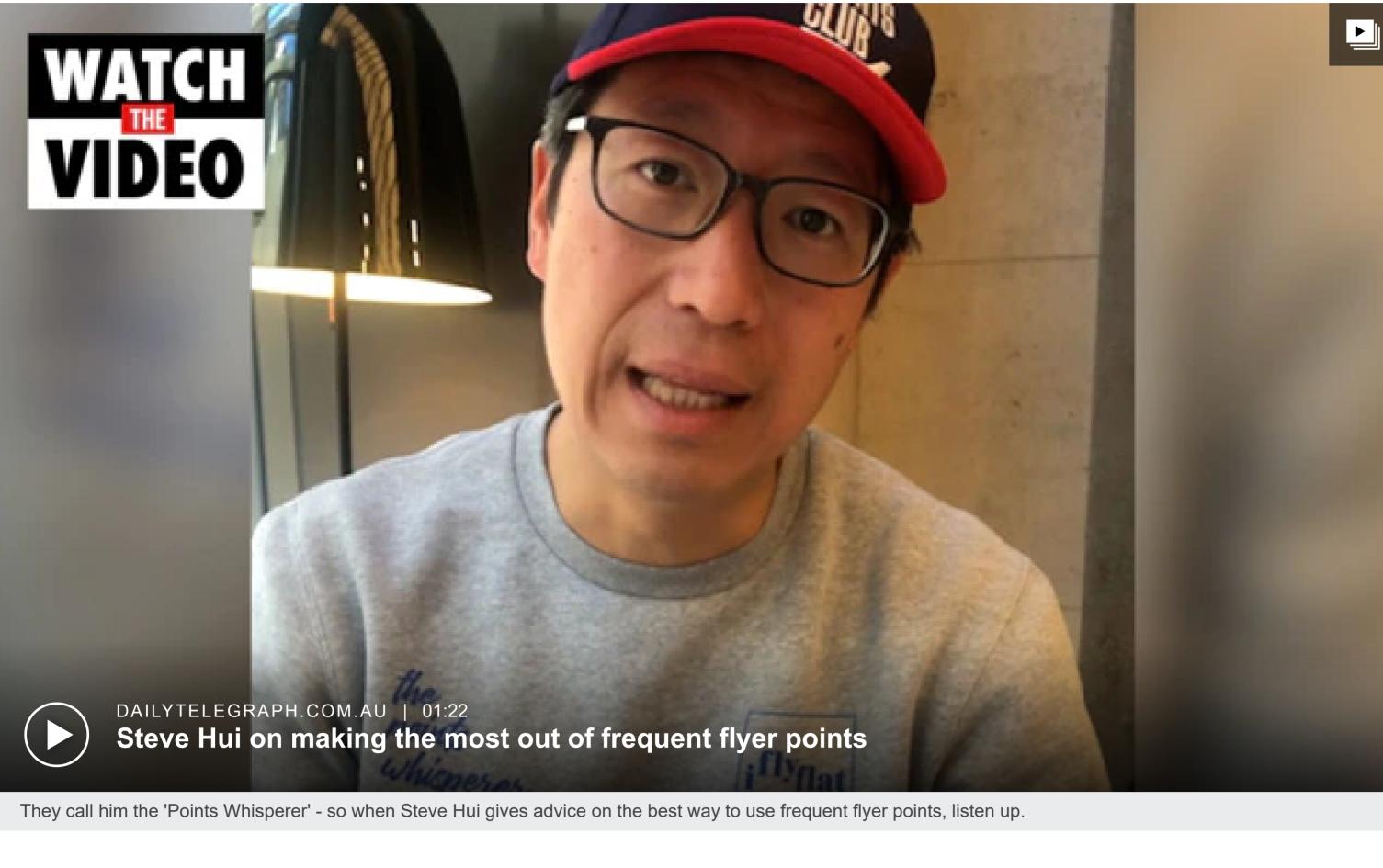
Why you should use your frequent flyer points now

With fares for international and domestic flights hitting new highs, an expert reveals why your frequent flyer points have never been more valuable.





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While the cash cost of domestic and international fares have shot up, the number of frequent flyer points needed for trips has stayed largely the same, meaning now was an excellent time to use them, said the man known as the 'Points Whisperer', Steve Hui.

Frequent flyer points have shot up in value as the cost of airfares surge, with a single

point now worth up to eight times as much as normal on some business class seats.

"The magic of frequent flyer points is that they can be worth more money or less money, depending on how you utilise those points," he said.

Reward seat in business class on a Qantas return flight from Sydney to Perth booked for June 2023, points were currently worth as much as 6.0 cents each, more than eight times their usual value.

Mr Hui said the base value of frequent flyer points was 0.7 cents, but for a Classic

Points seats for other destinations around that time also represent good value: 2.9 cents per point for a return flight to London; 3.2 cents per point to Los Angeles, 4.4 cents per point to Singapore and 5.0 cents per point to Melbourne.

\$1850

\$5000

\$1800

\$1900

\$8500

Melbourne

Brisbane

Auckland

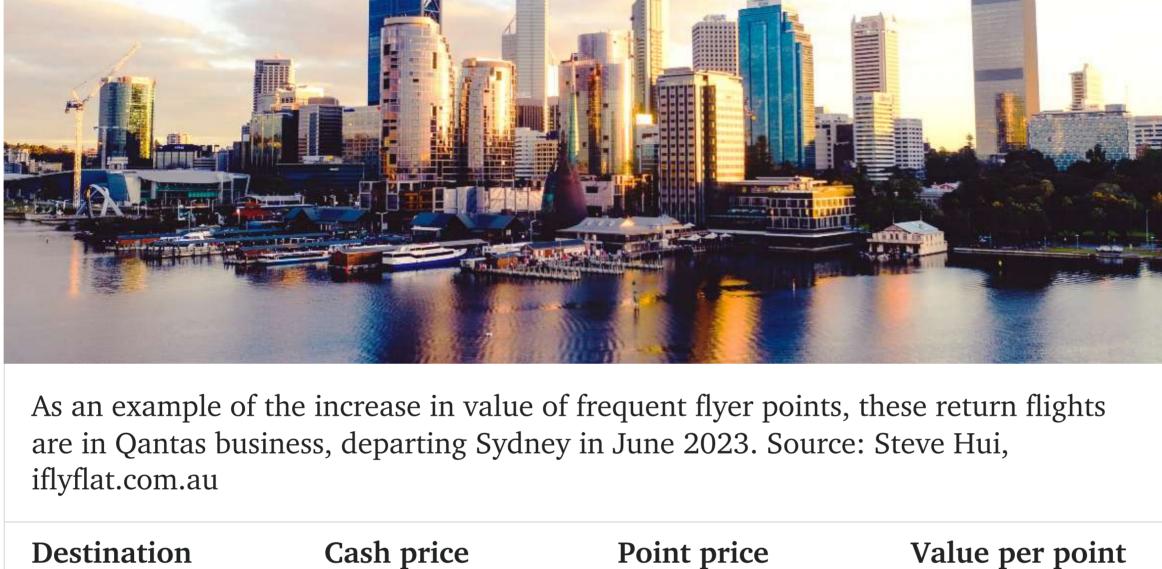
London

Perth (pictured)

was "becoming better value".

bang for your buck," he said.

WHAT POINTS ARE WORTH RIGHT NOW



36,800

83,000

36,800

83,000

289,200

5.0 cents

6.0 cents

4.9 cents

2.3 cents

2.9 cents

Los Angeles \$7000 216,800 3.2 cents \$6000 Singapore 136,800 4.4 cents

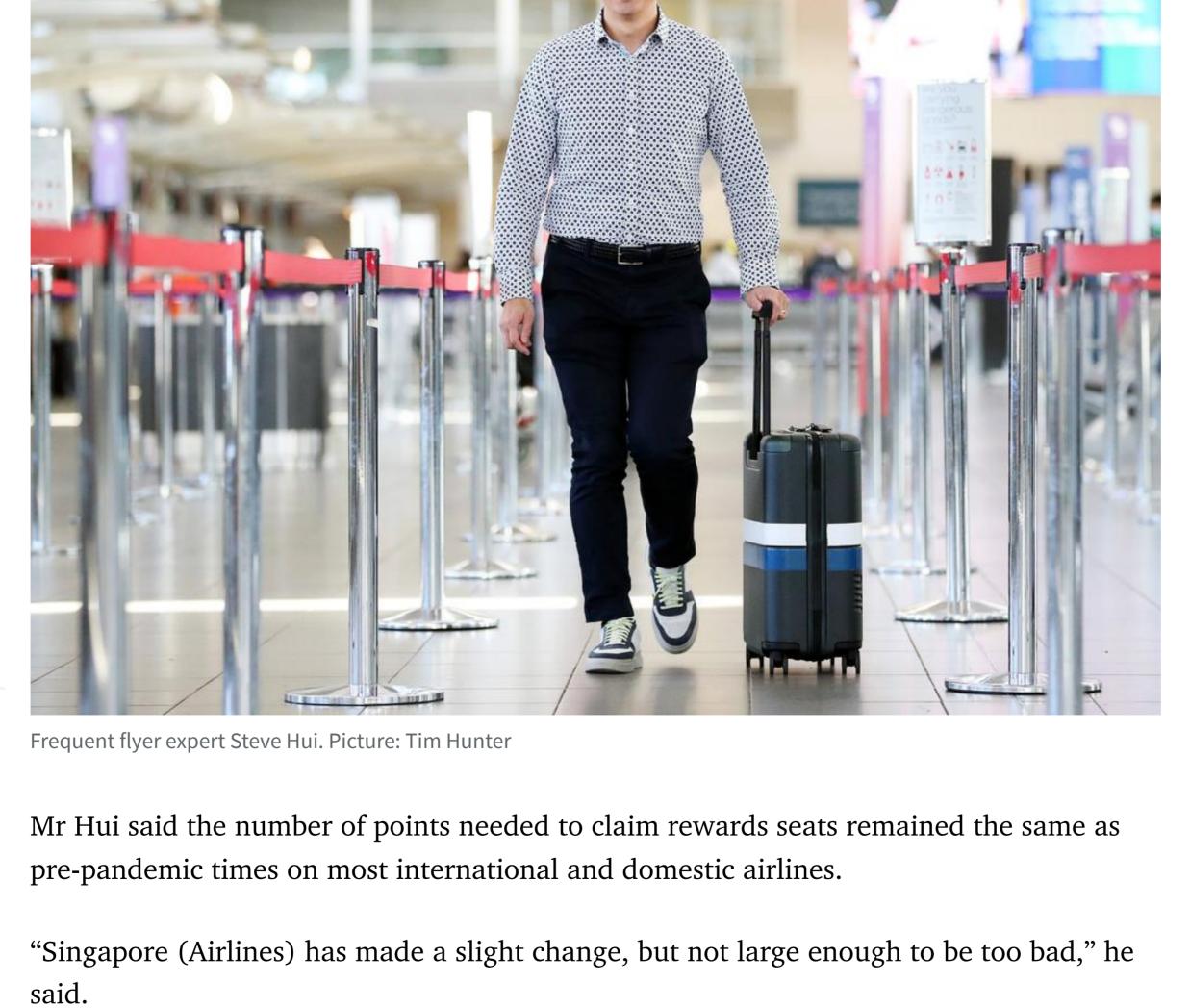
Getting enough frequent flyer points for a business class fare remains the ultimate

objective for many seasoned travellers, but Mr Hui said using points for seats in economy

"In the past I would have said don't use points for economy, because you won't get much

But with the cost of a return trip to Europe in the economy cabin drifting from \$2000 to more like \$5000, this is now changing for pure points seats, he said.

"You get more bang for business class, but the bang for buck in economy is not bad. Better than it was," he said.



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Mr Hui thinks not.

also look to increase the point cost?

[points] seats on a flight to five."

But will the good times last? If airlines have jacked up the cash price for seats, will they

"I don't think they're going to muck around with changing the value of points, because that has a flow-on effect; it changes the value of the program to partners." he said. "But they can control how many seats they put into the program; they might go from 10



Finder travel expert Stephanie Yip said this was disappointing for Australians who had bulked up their points balances during the pandemic, only to find them of limited use. "Many aren't getting as much value from their points as they'd hoped," she said. "Award-

flight availability has been unpredictable post-lockdown, which can be frustrating for

47 per cent Airfares skyrocket 96 per cent: "Typically upgrade requests are prioritised by membership status with those on a higher status See what you'll pay given first priority. If you're on a lower status,

instead. It might be more expensive but it'll guarantee you a spot at the pointy end of the

Originally published as Why you should use your frequent flyer points now Cost Of Living Read related topics:

Ms Yip said getting an upgrade was the best way to

use frequent flyer points, and being flexible with

dates and destinations was the easiest way to

consider booking a reward business class seat

travellers."

redeem points.

plane," she said.

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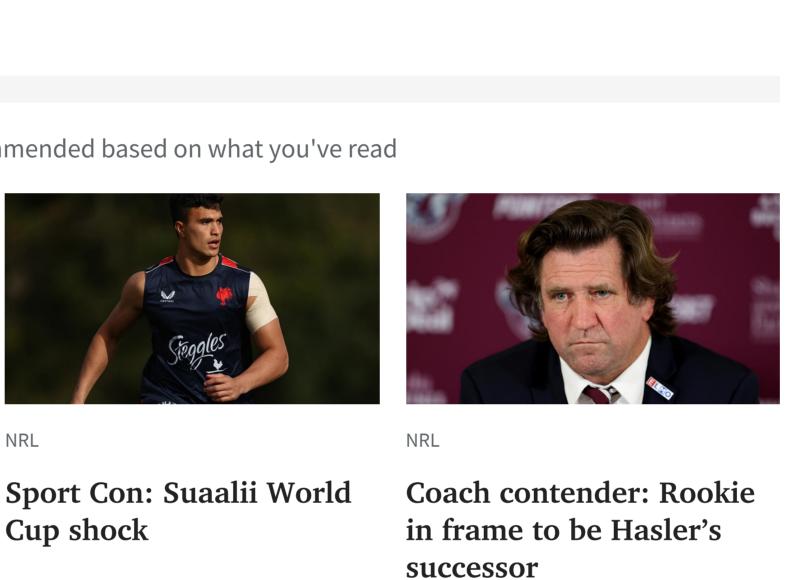
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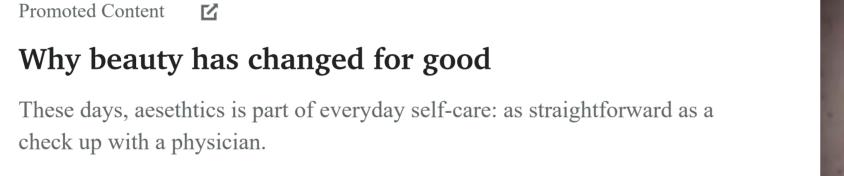
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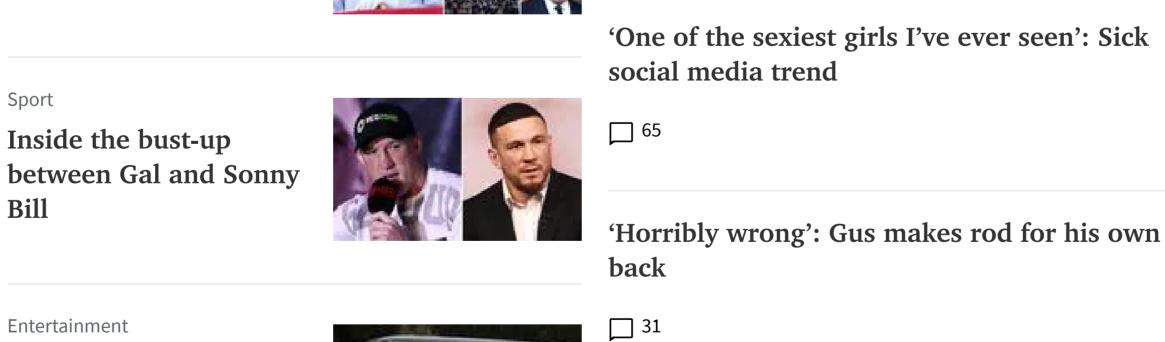
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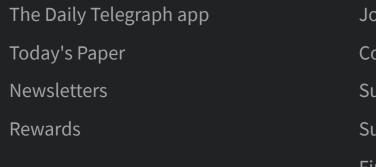
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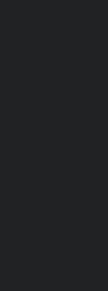


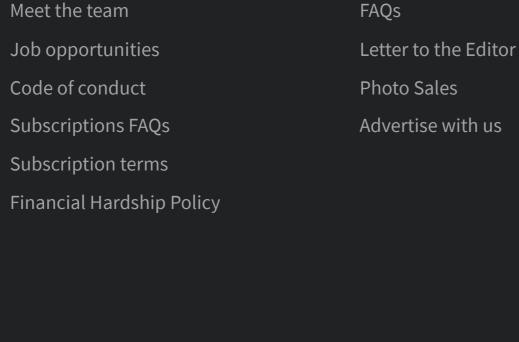
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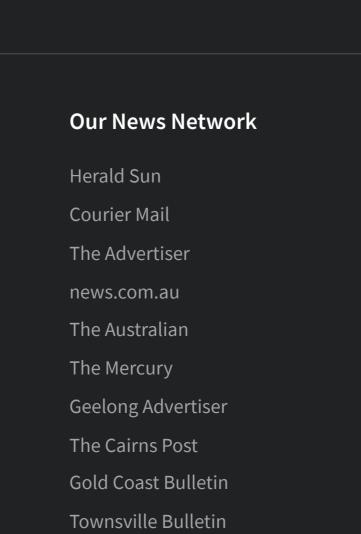
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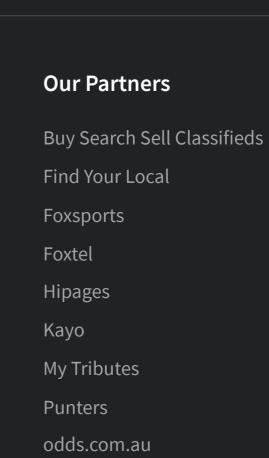


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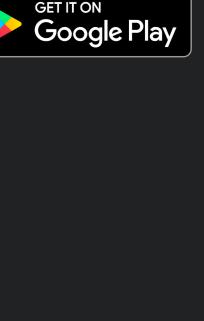
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