



Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess

EXHIBIT 102

Supplementary Statement of Kelly-Anne Ressler dated 23 May 2020

SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE RUBY PRINCESS

Further Statement of Kelly-Anne Ressler in response to Questions from Princess Cruise Lines Ltd and Carnival plc

I have previously signed a statement dated 1 May 2020. Set out below are questions from Princess Cruise Lines Ltd and Carnival plc, and my response to those questions.

1. At any point prior to the Ruby Princess returning to Sydney on 19 March 2020, were you, or to your knowledge anyone else at NSW Health, aware that several entries had been made in the Human Health Update section of the Maritime Arrivals Reporting System? If so, what was known, who knew it and when?

Response: No, I was not aware that several entries had been made in the Human Health Update section of the MARS, and I do not know whether anyone else at NSW Health was so aware.

2. At any point prior to the Ruby Princess returning to Sydney on 19 March 2020 did you review/have regard to:

- (a) The "Pre-Arrival Report" submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (**Department**) by the Ruby Princess Vessel Master (**Master**) on 16 March 2020 at 13:46 (Ex 19, pp 1 – 15);

Response: No.

- (b) The "Human Health Update" submitted to the Department by the Master on 16 March 2020 at 15:01 (Ex 19, pp 7 – 9);

Response: No.

- (c) The "Human Health Update" submitted to the Department by the Master on 18 March 2020 at 08:54 (Ex 19, pp 11 – 13);

Response: Yes.

- (d) The "Human Health Update" submitted to the Department by the Master on 18 March 2020 at 19:21 (Ex 19, pp 15 – 17) (**Human Health Updates**)?

Response: No.

3. To your knowledge, did anyone else at NSW Health review/have regard to the Human Health Updates prior to the *Ruby Princess* returning to Sydney on 19 March 2020?

Response: The Risk Assessment Form contained information from the Human Health Update submitted to the Department by the Master on 18 March 2020 at 08:54 as to tonnage and numbers of passengers and crew. I did not insert that information into the Risk Assessment Form and so someone other than me must have reviewed or had regard to that Human Health Update. I am not certain as to who that was, but think it likely it was Ms Laura-Jayne Quinn because she filled in the Risk Assessment Form.

4. We refer to your oral evidence from 5 May 2020 to the effect that:

- (a) Before 2017, NSW Health "had a process whereby ships would copy us in on" emails containing human health reports sent to the Commonwealth Government (T22.05-12); and
- (b) "The Maritime Arrivals Reporting System started in 2017 and was an online platform, and our unit were given access to log onto that system to review the Human Health Reports" (T23.01-03); and
- (c) The information contained in the human health reports was required to be supplied to Commonwealth authority and thereafter by arrangement made available to NSW Health (T23.05-14).

5. In respect of the paragraph immediately above:

- (a) Can you confirm that the "human health reports" referred to in your oral evidence are materials of the kind referred to at paragraph 2 above;

Response: Yes, the Human Health Reports referred to in my oral evidence are of the kind referred to in paragraph 2.

- (b) Can you confirm, by reason of your evidence at (b), that you were able to access the Human Health Updates;

Response: Yes, I was able to access the Human Health Updates, through the MARS.

- (c) What was your understanding of the purpose for which such information was made available to NSW Health?

Response: To allow the Public Health Unit's Cruise Ship Program to respond in a timely manner to outbreaks or diseases of quarantine concern.

- (d) How many persons in your unit had access to the Human Health Updates?

Response: *As far as I am aware, four people in the Public Health Unit had access to the MARS – Hanna Hildenbrand (Administration Officer), Sinead Hansen (Environmental Health Officer), Laura-Jayne Quinn (Environmental Health Officer) and myself had access to the MARS portal. Professor Mark Ferson (Director) may also have had access. It is possible that others may also have had access, however I am not sure about that.*

- (e) Did anyone at NSW Health outside of your unit have access to the Human Health Updates?

Response: *I do not know.*

- (f) Was there a standard system or procedure in place whereby NSW Health would be notified of entries to the Human Health Update section of the Maritime Arrivals Reporting System?

Response: *There was no standard system or procedure in place whereby South Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit would be notified of entries to the Human Health Update section of the MARS.*

- (g) Was there a standard system or procedure in place whereby NSW Health would monitor the Maritime Arrivals Reporting System for updates to the Human Health Update, up to the time at which a cruise ship commences disembarkation of passengers at a NSW port?

Response: *There was no standard system or procedure in place whereby South Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit would monitor the MARS for updates to the Human Health Update.*

6. Did the members of the expert panel you referred to in your evidence on 5 May 2020 have access to the Human Health Updates (**expert panel**)?

Response: *As far as I am aware, the only expert panel member who may have had access to MARS was Professor Mark Ferson.*

7. Were any steps taken by you (or anyone else at NSW Health) to provide any of the Human Health Updates to the members of the expert panel?

Response: *No.*

8. Was there any system in place by which NSW Health provided pre-arrival reports of the kind referred to at 2 above to the members of the expert panel?

Response: No.

9. Did you have any discussions with any of your colleagues and/or any member of the expert panel about:

- (a) Whether the Human Health Updates should be provided to the expert panel prior to the *Ruby Princess* returning to Sydney on 19 March 2020;

Response: I don't recall any discussions with any colleagues and/or any member of the expert panel about providing Human Health Updates to the panel.

- (b) Whether, more generally, pre-arrival reports of the kind referred to at 2 above should be provided to the members of the expert panel for the purposes of undertaking pre-arrival risk assessments?

Response: I don't recall any discussions about whether pre-arrival reports or the kind referred to at 2 above should be provided to members of the expert panel.

If so, (i) with whom did you have those discussions and (ii) what was the content of those discussions.

10. Based on your knowledge and experience as an epidemiologist, would the information contained in the final Human Health Update (see paragraph 2(d) above) have influenced the outcome of the pre-arrival risk assessment undertaken by NSW Health prior to the *Ruby Princess* returning to Sydney on 19 March 2020?

Response: It would have influenced the information I provided to Professor Ferson. I cannot say whether it would have influenced the outcome of the risk assessment.

If the answer to this question is yes, please explain:

- (a) What information would have so influenced the outcome;

Response: I cannot say what information would have influenced the outcome. However, I would have informed Professor Ferson of the information in the Human Health Update submitted on 18 March 2020 at 19:21.

- (b) How and why that information would have influenced the outcome; and

Response: See above.

- (c) The additional steps/precautionary measures NSW Health would have taken in respect of the *Ruby Princess* based on that information.

Response: *That would be a matter for the expert panel.*

Signed: K. Ressler

Name: Kelly-Anne Ressler

Date: 23 May 2020