



Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess

EXHIBIT 60

Statement of Anthony Londero dated 16 April 2020

**STATEMENT OF A WITNESS**

In the matter of: Strike Force BAST
Place: State Crime Command
Date: 16 April 2020

Name: Anthony LONDERO

STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 62 years of age.
3. My fullname is Anthony Renato LONDERO. I was born in Australia and I currently reside in Quirindi, New South Wales. I was married in 1977 to my wife Kerry Margaret LONDERO. As a result of our marriage we have four children; Benjamin, Brooke, Joshua and Michael who are all adults now.
4. I'm currently employed [REDACTED] on a casual basis. The company I work for is MRM Solutions Pty. I generally work two days a week [REDACTED] at Mangoola Mine, near Muswellbrook. I completed my secondary school certificate and have worked in the agriculture and primary industries field, but for the last 28 years I have been working in the mines [REDACTED].
5. The reason we travelled on the Ruby Princess Cruise Ship was purely for a vacation with our friends Paul and Linda CHEYNE. I have known Paul and Linda for around 12 years. My wife and Linda grew up together and have known each other for over 40 years.
6. We booked our cruise on the Ruby Princess through an online cruise company called, Discover 365. The total cost was \$3458 for both Kerry and I and included our accommodation, meals and entertainments for 13 nights. I'm not sure when we booked it, but we had been planning the trip since around November 2019. We booked it all together with Paul and Linda. The booking reference number was [REDACTED]. We chose the Ruby Princess as we all wanted to go

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to New Zealand. We had a look online and Ruby Princess was the only cruise ship going to New Zealand that was in the price range that we could afford.

7. I have previously been on six (6) other cruises. Three of those were with Paul and Linda. I have travelled twice on the Pacific Dawn (PNO), three times on Carnival Spirit and once on a Mediterranean Cruise Ship. This trip was our first time on the Ruby Princess.
8. On 7 March 2020, Kerry and I travelled on the NSW Country Link train from Quirindi to Sydney, with Paul and Linda. Kerry and I stayed at Hotel Coronation, 5 Park Street, Sydney. In the afternoon of 8 March 2020, Kerry and I caught the light rail from near our accommodation on Park Street, Sydney, down to The Rocks, where the Ruby Princess was berthed at Circular Quay. During the day Linda CHEYNE received a number of texts (SMS) from the cruise line saying boarding would be delayed as Health Authorities held it up.
9. Once we had reached the Overseas Passenger Terminal, there were thousands of passengers waiting to board the Ruby Princess. We had received a text message saying that we couldn't board but we could check our luggage in. There was a crowd of people just standing around waiting to board. There were some Ruby Princess staff giving instructions that no passengers could board and advising people to go and get lunch and await further instructions. We went to the baggage drop area and checked in our luggage. Because of the delay we went to the bar next to the cruise terminal and had some food and drinks. We were offered a reimbursement up to \$30 each for refreshments from the cruise line whilst waiting but we didn't take up the offer.
10. During the late afternoon we received a text message indicating we could start boarding. We made our way back to the boarding area. Whilst we were in line, waiting to board we were asked to fill in a questionnaire on whether we had been in any other countries where COVID-19 was infectious. From memory we were asked if we had been in China or Italy in the last 14 days. Apart from the questionnaire there was no other screening procedures or instructions given in relation to COVID-19. I was surprised that they weren't checking passengers' temperatures, as Linda had contacted the cruise line in the week prior and they had assured her proper screening would be done.
11. After we filled in the questionnaire we went through customs where they checked our passports. Then we made our way to the area where they took our photos and issued us the

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Princess Medallion. The Medallion is an electronic key, which allows access to your room, and you use it for any purchases you make on the ship. It is also used as identification for when you exit and re-enter the ship.

12. Prior to boarding the Ruby Princess, I was in good health. My health practitioner is Dr SHERAN who works at Quirindi Medical Centre. I have been seeing Dr SHERAN for around 4 years. My last check-up was February 2020.
- [REDACTED]

13. Once we boarded the Ruby Princess, we went to our cabin which was on A deck, cabin A537, which is an inside cabin in midship. The Ruby princess is a fine ship, it has multiple swimming pools, bars, entertainment areas, and there are several restaurants.
14. After leaving Sydney late on 8 March 2020, the Ruby Princess travelled south-east for a couple of days. During these days Kerry and I joined in many ship's activities. We then cruised through the Fjord lands. Our first port, we stopped at was Port Chalmers on 12 March 2020. When we exited the ship Kerry and I lined up where we had to scan our Princess Medallion through Ruby Princess Security, from there we walked down the gangway and off the ship. There were no customs or screening procedures when exiting the ship. I didn't notice anyone wearing any Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) such as masks or gloves.
15. Once off the ship we were bused from the port to Dunedin. We arrived late morning and were at Dunedin for the day. We first went for coffee at the coffee shop next to the art gallery with our friends Paul and Linda. We then walked down to the train station, window shopping along the way. We headed back towards the bus stop, and we stopped for lunch at 'The Best Fish Shop In Town'. I didn't feel well so Kerry and I returned to the ship and had an early night. At that stage I had a headache and a bit of a sore throat.
16. When re-entering the ship we had to place any loose items, our bags etc. on a conveyor belt to be scanned for any contraband. There were no other procedures other than re-scanning the Princess Medallion. There were plenty of Ruby Princess staff there overseeing the security screening but I didn't notice any of them wearing PPE.

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17. On 13 March 2020, the Ruby Princess stopped at Akaroa. The Ruby Princess had to anchor at this port, and we were required to get tenders from the ship to shore. As usual we went with our friends Paul and Linda. Once we arrived at shore, again there were no customs or screening procedures when exiting the ship. I didn't see anyone wearing PPE. We stopped and talked to 3 Jehovah's Witnesses that were manning a literature cart. We then walked along the waterfront stopping for lunch at a French bakery. Then continued window shopping for a while and returned to the ship later that afternoon. Again, we had to get a tender from the shore to take us out to the ship. Once we got out to the ship, we re-scanned our Princess Medallions and put our bags and loose items through the security scanner on the ship.
18. Later that night I remember I had a temperature and muscle aches, but my sore throat had gone. I took some Panadol and it seemed to help.
19. The third stop on our cruise was Wellington. We stopped there on the 14 March 2020. I felt better so I decided to exit the ship. Again, there were no customs or screening procedures when we disembarked the ship. I scanned the Princess Medallion and walked off the ship. I didn't notice anyone wearing PPE. Kerry, Paul, Linda and I caught the bus to town and walked from the bus stop to the cable car. We caught the cable car to the top, after stopping to look at the view. I went to the pharmacy nearby to buy some more Panadol. We were with our friends Paul and Linda up to this point. Paul and Linda decided to walk down but we returned by the cable car and we reunited back at the bus stop then returned to the Ruby Princess. I was feeling un-well, so we didn't meet for dinner at the restaurant as we had done so the previous nights. I still had a headache, fever and muscle aches. Whilst Paul and Linda were at dinner I saw the news on television that 250 people had died in Italy and this alarmed me, so we called a meeting with the CHEYNES. Kerry and I decided to begin social distancing and not attend anywhere that there were crowds including, not attending the evening entertainment on the ship.
20. The fourth stop was the city of Napier. We arrived in Napier on 15 March 2020. Kerry and I exited the ship. Again, there were no customs or screening procedures other than scanning our medallions as we exited. We caught the bus to town with Paul and Linda and walked around the CBD. We stopped at a café for refreshments. Paul CHEYNE and I walked to the waterfront while our wives went shopping. Around Lunch time Kerry and I returned to the Ruby Princess. I

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still wasn't feeling well and had a fever. When we returned to the ship, we scanned our medallions and went through the usual security screening. There were no changes or new procedures put in place and I didn't notice anyone wearing PPE.

21. Whilst on the ship Kerry and I would go for breakfast and lunch each day at the Cafe/bistro. Kerry and I took it upon ourselves to exercise social distancing but we were never instructed or requested to social distance by Ruby Princess staff. We would go for dinner each night at Bottecilli Restaurant. Kerry and I would go to the Princess Theatre at night to watch the shows, until I became unwell and commenced social distancing on the 14 March 2020. Prior to this, I was involved in many onboard activities such as Trivia, dance classes, karaoke and I joined the choir. I also attended the art lecture as well. We were accompanied by the CHEYNES for most activities.
22. Whilst I was doing the dance lessons my dance partner was an 80-year-old lady, I can't remember her name, but she was traveling with her sister Clair who was 85 years old. I also made friends with a retired US Soldier named Curtis.
23. Whilst onboard our waiters name was Jesus from Porta Baiada, Mexico. Other than when staff were serving food, I didn't see them wearing any PPE. At no stage was there any social distancing measures introduced or enforced by the Ruby Princess.
24. I spent the last 3 days in the Ruby Princess's hospital, where I met Dr Lise VON WATZDORF and a male nurse from South Africa and an Asian female nurse. The ship itself is very clean. The staff are continually cleaning all areas including bathrooms and other general areas.
25. I believe that everyone received a directory card showing the lay out of the Ruby Princess and there were electronic touch screens directories located around the Ruby Princess in the main foyer areas.
26. I heard some rumours on the Ruby Princess, from two other passengers on board, that the reason we were late embarking on the 8 March 2020, was that there were sick passengers and crew from the previous cruise.
27. In relation to my symptoms I developed a mild sore throat on 11 March 2020, that cleared up after two days. On 13 March 2020, I felt muscle soreness throughout my body and on 15

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March 2020, I developed a temperature. The symptoms came on gradually and were mild at first but after a few days they became more severe.

28. In the evening of Monday 16 March 2020, a note was put under our cabin door. I can't recall the exact wording on the note but it stated words to the effect of, 'anyone with a temperature please report to the crew'. I immediately attended the Ruby Princess Medical Clinic, where I was admitted. Dr VON WATZDORF believed I was showing signs of a mild heart attack aggravated by a flu. The Doctor didn't believe I was suffering from the Coronavirus. I was feeling very unwell, I had a high temperature, muscle aches and a splitting headache. I was in the Ruby Princess Medical Clinic as patient for 3 days. I was treated for the heart attack. They swabbed me for Influenza A and B and Corona Virus. They told me the testing for Influenza A and B could be done on the ship but the Corona Virus testing had to be sent off the ship. They gave me some medication for my heart which I think was potassium and blood thinner injections. They continued to monitor me for the next 3 days. I remember very little whilst I was in the Ruby Princess Medical Clinic as I was very sick. I do remember the Doctor saying, "They aren't going to be happy because the influenza came back negative". I was never informed of the results of the corona virus swab taken on the ship. In relation to treatment, I recall them giving me liquid Panadol intravenously and I remember being hooked up to the ECG machine and having my blood pressure checked.
29. On the Wednesday evening, on 18 March 2020, I was allowed to return to my cabin for a few hours. Dr VON WATZDORF released me and told me to stay in my room. I went directly to my cabin and I only had contact with Kerry. Paul and Linda bought us dinner to our door but I didn't have any direct contact with them.
30. I remained in the cabin until I was told to return to the Medical Clinic at around 1:00am to await ambulance transport to hospital when we docked in Sydney.
31. As we docked in Sydney, in the early hours of 19 March 2020, I was escorted off the Ruby Princess by medical staff and NSW Paramedics. In the medical clinic the Doctors and nurses were wearing masks and gloves. The Paramedics were also wearing full PPE. There were two ambulances, one to transport me and another to transport another patient, Mrs BACON. I recall some conversation about how my wife was going to be transported but other than that I don't really remember anything else. My wife travelled to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA)

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with me in the NSW Ambulance. Kerry and I were separated when we arrived at the hospital as it was in full isolation. Mrs BACON was being processed whilst I was waiting to be admitted to the Emergency Department. During this time, I had a seizure. I was processed in the Emergency Department and swabs were taken.

32. I was taken to ICU where the Doctor informed me the following day that I had tested positive for corona virus (Covid-19). I spent 8 days in RPA, then I was moved to the virtual hospital at Summer Hill on Parramatta Road. During this time, I was hooked up to a device which monitored my vital signs. These could be remotely monitored by medical staff. I was in full isolation, having my meals brought to the door each day.
33. On the evening of Monday 31 March 2020, I was discharged and reunited with my wife Kerry. The process involved just a phone call telling me I was discharged. I don't even know who it was that called. It turned out that Kerry was staying at the same virtual hospital and she had been discharged at the same time. We didn't receive any specific instruction on where to go or how we were to make our way back home. I contacted my daughter, Brooke and she arranged for an Uber to pick us up and take us to my son's house at Gwandalin, New South Wales. We stayed the night there then my son drove us to Singleton, where my other son had brought my car for us. Kerry and I then travelled in our car back to our home in Quirindi. After we were discharged, we both wore masks and gloves as precaution, although we were never instructed by health officials to do so.
34. I don't know how or where I contracted the virus. I was very conscious to hand sanitize regularly and I was very careful of what I touched. I didn't notice anyone coughing or sneezing. Kerry also tested positive for corona virus and she had very mild symptoms.
35. On 9 April 2020, I received medical clearance from New South Wales Health.
36. On 13 May 2020, I met with Detective Senior Constable Natasha LYE where I provided my consent for the NSW Police Force to obtain my medical records.

ANNEXURE 1: Medical Records from Ruby Princess Medical Clinic

ANNEXURE 2: Medical Records from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

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