



Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess

EXHIBIT 67

Statement of Wendy Williams dated 11 May 2020

**STATEMENT OF A WITNESS**

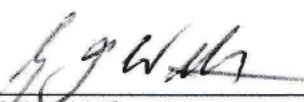
In the matter of: Strike Force BAST
Place: Gulmarrad, New South Wales
Date: 11 May 2020

Name: Wendy WILLIAMS


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 65 years of age.
3. I was a passenger on the Ruby Princess cruise that departed Sydney on Sunday the 8th of March 2020. I was travelling with my husband, Gary Williams.
4. Our holiday was booked online through Princess Cruises on or about 2nd of December 2019.
5. Prior to boarding the ship Gary and I were in fine health. I was aware of Covid-19 but not overly concerned about it.
6. On the 8th of March we received several text messages advising that there was a delay in boarding the Ruby Princess. We eventually boarded about 5:30pm. We were in cabin [REDACTED], [REDACTED].
7. While on the ship, I cannot recall explicitly but it was mentioned to use you cabin toilets rather than the public toilets and to washing your hands.
8. At Dunedin we did a half day morning tour with "Back to Nature Tours", called DOPHD Dunedin Otago Peninsula - Morning Tour, transport was by a minibus with about a dozen

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Gary WILLIAMS
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passengers. We drove around Dunedin but only stopped at the Railway Station, Allan's Beach to view Sea Lions, the Steepest Street.


9. At Akaroa, we went ashore via the ship's shuttle boat. We visited the bank, bought a beanie and an ice cream. We were not in a tour group and stayed for about two hours.
10. At Wellington, we did a day tour, called WGTNSS Wellington Central Tour, visiting various sites and ending with a trip on the cable car. We travelled in a minibus with about a dozen passengers.
11. At Napier, we did a half day tour, called NWSE Napier Wow Shore Excursion, visiting a winery, a chocolate place, and a lookout. We travelled in a minibus with about ten passengers. When the ship was leaving Napier I started getting a sore throat. That night I struggled to sleep, I was freezing all night, I think I started to get a temperature.
12. While on the ship, Gary and I went to the Princess Theatre, the shops, Club Fusion, Horizon Court, Cafe Caribe, Coffee & Cones, Slice Pizzeria, International Cafe, The Piazza, Medical Centre, Gatsby's Casino, Laundromat (level 9). We also walked outside around the Promenade deck and some of the upper decks.
13. Gary and I had all meals at Horizon Court, it was a buffet. We did not have a specific table or mealtime. We often shared a table with other passengers, meeting them for the first time.
14. We frequently spoke to our cabin boy; I believe his name was Gerry. We did not have reason to speak with other crew members
15. We first started hearing about Covid-19 while watching the news on the TV in our cabin.
16. The night of the 16th of March my symptoms were worse, I shivered as I tried to sleep and my throat was sore.

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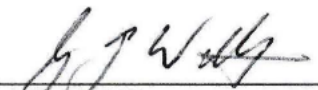


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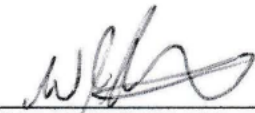
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17. On the 17th of March, Gary and I visited the Medical Centre. There was a couple of passengers in the waiting room. I didn't notice if they were sick, there was no obvious coughing or complaining. Gary did not have any symptoms. I asked the nurse to check my temperature, he was reluctant but did what I asked. I did not notice the male nurse wearing a name badge, he did not tell me his name. I recall him requesting my cabin number, but I do not recall him writing it down. My temperature was normal, he didn't suggest any additional testing, so Gary and I left. We went back to our cabin, and we decided to self-quarantine until the cruise had ended. Gary stayed with me in the cabin, he only left to collect me a meal from the buffet. Gary did not tell crew that we decided to self-quarantine.
18. Several information brochures were supplied in the last couple of days about Covid-19 and self-isolation, they were placed under the cabin door. The information sheets may have mentioned to visiting the Medical Centre if you felt unwell, but I cannot recall the exact details. One of the brochures we received on the ship (also when we disembarked) advised us to self-isolate for 14 days. It also stated that we could travel directly home by whatever means necessary.
19. It's hard to fully recall if there were announcements about Covid-19. I attended the medical centre because I was unwell, not because I heard any announcements requesting passengers get checked by medical staff.
20. I was not aware of any passengers having Covid-19 on the ship.
21. On the morning of disembarkation, 19th of March, Gary left the cabin to obtain a face mask for me to wear as I left the ship. The help desk told him to go to the Medical Centre and advised I had to go also. When we arrived, there was another lady asking for the mask, she was getting aggressive, she was demanding a face mask. It seemed as if the male nurse, same nurse I saw a few days earlier, was reluctant to hand one over. The passenger continued to demand the face mask and he eventually handed her one. When I spoke to him, asking for a mask, he handed to me, he did not seem keen to give passengers face masks. I believed that I had Covid-19, I had a headache, sore throat, fever, chills and I was tired. I was at the medical centre for 5-10 minutes. I did not want to leave the ship without a mask.
22. We were the 2nd group to disembark. Gary and I waited at our marshalling area, outside the Crown Grill on deck 7. When we were off the ship, we only had to hand over the Declaration

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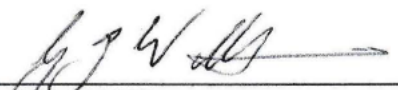

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Cards, there was no Passport checks or Health checks. I left the ship wearing my face mask and continued to wear it in public.

23. Gary and I walked to the Manly Ferry wharf; a female staff member assisted me to carry my bag on to the ferry. We caught a cab from Manly to Narrabeena, we both sat in the back seat. Our car was parked with family in Narrabeena, when we collected the car, we distanced ourselves from my sister and her husband. We stopped at our daughter's place in Muswellbrook to collect our dog. I again wore my face mask while out of the car at Muswellbrook and distanced myself from my son-in-law, he was the only person home at the time. We arrived home in the early evening on 19th of March, I called my GP and was directed to call the Covid-19 Hotline. I was booked in to have a Covid-19 swab the following day. My
24. symptoms were continually getting worse each day. We both self-isolated as soon as we arrived home. Gary extended his self-isolation for an addition 14 days from the 26th of March as that was his last contact with me.
25. I was tested for Covid-19 on 20th of March and advised of the positive result on the 22nd of March. NSW Health arranged for an ambulance to take me to Lismore Base Hospital as a precaution. I stayed overnight and came home on 23rd of March. I was able to walk out of the Hospital; Gary drove me home.
26. On 26th of March, brain was mush, my symptoms were worse again, NSW Health called to check on me, they arranged for another ambulance to take me back to Lismore Base Hospital. In the ambulance my temperature was 39.8 degrees plus I had all the earlier mentioned symptoms. I was placed in an Isolation Room, given IV antibiotics and oxygen. My condition worsened over the next week. I contracted pneumonia virus. I was advised that I may get admitted into ICU. My liver started to play up, so I was moved from IV to oral antibiotic.
27. About the 5th of April 2020 I finally started to improve. On 16th of April I was given the all clear after receiving my 2nd negative result. I went home on 17th of April.
28. I have never had lung issues and I am still out of breath. Gary never had symptoms, he was tested for Covid-19 on the 14th of April and received a negative result on the 16th of April.

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Gary WILLIAMS
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