



Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess

# EXHIBIT 74

Statement of Andrew Saulys dated 14 May 2020

**STATEMENT OF A WITNESS**

**In the matter of:** MV Ruby Princess - Passenger [REDACTED]  
**Place:** Strike Force BAST  
**Date:** 14 May 2020

**Name:** Andrew SAULYS

**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. My wife Joan and I reside in South Australia. On Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 we arrived at the Overseas Passenger Terminal, Sydney to board the Ruby Princess for a round trip to New Zealand returning to Sydney Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2020. This was our first cruise.
4. We were travelling with Robyn and Paul [REDACTED], friends from South Australia. We were in cabin [REDACTED], located 'Aloha' deck, level 12. Robyn and Paul were nearby in cabin [REDACTED]. Robyn and Paul had been on 3 to 5 cruises previously.
5. Crew person Jerome was our cabin steward during the voyage.
6. When at the Overseas Passenger Terminal, I received text messages from the Ruby Princess telling us the ship was waiting for approval to leave the terminal and go and have dinner. Late that evening I got another message saying the ship had been cleared to leave and asking passengers to be back on board by 9pm as the ship was supposedly leaving at 10pm.
7. Earlier, on arrival, after checking in at the terminal we met up with Robyn and Paul at the James Squire Brewery nearby and boarded the ship after 9pm. The Ruby Princess departed Sydney about 11pm.

Witness:

Signature:

  
Andrew SAULYS  
14 May 2020

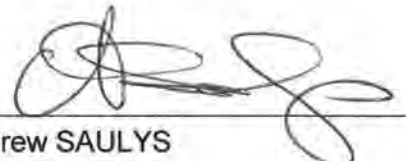
**Statement of Andrew SAULYS**  
**In the matter of MV Ruby Princess - Passenger** ■

8. Routinely, while on board, we would eat in the buffet and restaurants. We attended shops located on the 2 level arcade and after dinner to the Princess Theatre and to the other wine bars, the gym and pool.
9. We roughly aimed for a 7.30pm dinner most evenings but we never had the same table during the cruise. My wife and I always dined with our friends Robyn and Paul and attended to by a variety of dining staff.
10. We didn't mix with other passengers a great deal, except for a wine tasting event on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> at about 2pm. We were seated at a table of 6 or 8 people from Canada, Tasmania and another couple. When the tasting was completed people dispersed leaving the area.
11. We travelled first to Fiordland and then after ported at Dunedin, Akaroa, Wellington and Napier. We left the ship and toured at each location on transport either organised by ourselves or using the ship's bus tours and local connections to tour the Hawkes Bay wine country at Napier.
12. None of the group had reason to attend the medical centre on board, nor was I aware of illnesses or of persons quarantined or isolated during the cruise. However, on the evening of Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> while we were waiting in the entrance to one of the restaurants, Da Vinci I think, to be ushered to our table, a couple in front of us were refused admission. The door attendant meeting guests and arranging seating, had a notebook and was checking names against the guest's ID medallions with them on a lanyard. The couple were told they were to order their meals via room service in their cabin and wouldn't be admitted to the dining room, the couple said they had been eating in the dining room every night. They looked at one another and left.
13. We also noted Jerome, our cabin attendant, was coughing on the last three days of the cruise, but he didn't appear to be ill.
14. During the cruise I was aware of cleaning by crew, primarily stair railings and balustrades being wiped down, Joan noted the walls of our cabin had been cleaned and wiped, she noted the walls being 'wet', when entering the cabin the sunlight had caught the dampness of the wiped wall and was visible. Other than that, we saw in the buffet area, when closed, being wiped and cleaned by the crew, they were standing on counters wiping high and low, cleaning extensively. This happened at the finish of the voyage.

Witness:



Signature:

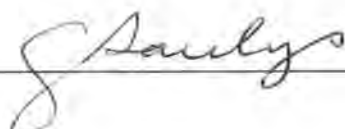


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15. There were ships announcements broadcast and crew advising passengers to exercise personal hygiene, in particular the washing of hands and use of hand sanitisers. We were also made aware via daily printed bulletins delivered to our cabin.
16. After leaving Napier, and later that evening after dinner, we went to the Theatre at the front of the ship to watch a show, finishing around 10pm when a ships announcement was made advising the ship would be returning to Sydney immediately, the remaining itinerary cancelled as New Zealand had closed it's borders to cruise ships. We then thought 'this is getting serious'.
17. Back in Sydney the vessel docked around 2am, on the morning of Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. We had an allocated departure area 'Brown 3', from there to disembark and proceed into the terminal. There was no temperature checking of passengers, security or passport checking.
18. We were travelled directly home to South Australia. After passing through the Overseas Passenger Terminal we caught a taxi from its upper level to Sydney Airport. Upon arrival we found we had missed the 9.30am flight, eventually catching a flight at 3.45pm.
19. All four of us later tested positive to COVID-19.
20. Joan and I first noticed symptoms on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, with a tickle in our throat, this cleared by mid morning. The following day Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of March once we arrived home symptoms developed with soreness to joints, aches, pains, severe headaches, loss of taste and a bad gut. We were both tested at Flinders Hospital, Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March for COVID-19. SA Health called the next day informing us we were positive and to attend the hospital for admission and treatment on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. My condition deteriorated and I was transferred to ICU on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March for 4 days. After 17 days in total I was released from Hospital on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of April.
21. We have since been discharged and cleared of infection.

Witness:



Signature:



Andrew SAULYS  
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