



Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess

EXHIBIT 82

Statement of Donald Jones dated 20 April 2020



STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of: Ruby Princess - Passenger
Place: MIG - Marine Area Command
Date: 20 April 2020

Name: Donald JONES

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 82 years of age.
3. I commenced working at the NSW Police Force in 1959 and was stationed at Waverley, Gosford and Wollongong. I achieved the rank of Detective Inspector in charge of Wollongong Police Station. I retired from the NSW Police Force in 1988. I'm currently residing with my wife Lynette at Figtree.
4. I got marriage to my wife Lynette in 1965, and we had two children. My son, Brett who is deceased. My daughter, Jennifer is currently living in Wollongong with her family.
5. Lynette and I booked a cruise through Princes Cruises to New Zealand around October 2019. This cruise was leaving Sydney on 8 March 2020 and arriving back in Sydney on 2 April 2020. The cruise was number [REDACTED] on the Ruby Princess and we were travelling with friends Sue and Henry [REDACTED], Bill and Lucy [REDACTED] and Glenda [REDACTED]. The cruise was due to

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commence at 6:45pm on 8 March leaving at the Overseas Passenger Terminal, Circular Quay, Sydney.

6. Approximately, a week before the cruise was due to leave Lynette and I were advised by Princess Cruises that we should take an extra 2 weeks of medication as a safety precaution. My wife and I were allocated Riviera Deck 14, cabin number [REDACTED] which was on the rear starboard side of the Ruby Princess. I don't have an email address, nor do I have a mobile phone. I believe Lynette would have received this information.
7. Lynette and I were given a boarding time of 1:15pm, on 8 March 2020. The group that we were travelling with had organised with South Coast Limousine company for driver to pick up each party up and we would all go to the Overseas passenger Terminal together. The group consisted of, Sue and Henry [REDACTED], Bill and Lucy [REDACTED]. The vehicle was white limousine with a trailer on the back. The Limousine picked Lynette and I up second, where Sue and Henry were already in the Limousine after picking Lynette and I up, we picked up Bill and Lucy. We all live around the same area, so there was minimal time between pickups.
8. Our group arrived at the Overseas Passenger Terminal approximately 12:30pm, with the exception of Glenda [REDACTED] who was flying from Brisbane. At this time, the terminal area was heavily packed with passengers lining up to board the ship. All passengers were shoulder to shoulder. During this time, we were advised by Princess Staff that the ship would not be leaving on time because the previous cruise was delayed disembarking and the Ruby Princess needed a deep clean. The Princess Staff in the terminal and outside the terminal were wearing a blue uniform with the Princess Logo on their chest. The Princess Staff told our group if we wished to go and have lunch, we would be reimbursed for it. Our group with exception of two,

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being Henry and Sue who wanted Crepes. Lynette, Bill, Lucy and I went to the nearby Orient Hotel for lunch, for which we were later reimbursed. After lunch, the terminal area was still crushed with people and we were advised that there would be a further delay on the sailing time by Princess Staff and if we liked, we could then have dinner and be reimbursed. As a result, our group went walking around the Rocks area, and returned to the Orient Hotel for dinner. We remained there until approximately 8:30pm.

9. As our group was having their meal at the Orient Hotel, we could all look down at the passengers lining up to board the Ruby Princess. As we were finishing dinner, we could see the line that was waiting to board the Ruby Princess had all gone into the Overseas Passenger Terminal. We all hurried down to the passenger terminal. I'm not sure of the process to get on the Ruby Princess nor do I remember the process. I remember leaving Sydney late around 11.30pm. I stood at the stern of the Ruby Princess to watch us sail out of Sydney Harbour.
10. The cabin which Lynette and I had was [REDACTED] Deck 14 Rivera. The cabin was the last cabin at the stern of the Ruby Princess on the starboard side. It had a double bed, balcony and a bathroom. Being at the stern of the Ruby Princess it would take us an extra 5 minutes to walk anywhere on the ship.
11. At this time, I was aware that the coronavirus existed due to the problems with the Diamond Princess in Japan through the news. However, the cruise that we were on was only a short cruise to a country being New Zealand that had no problems with the virus. As a result, I did not see any problems. However, due to this for some reason, I did not consider a problem with overseas visitors on the cruise that may as well have bought the virus on the cruise.

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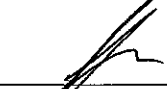
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12. We set sail around 11:30pm, that evening and our cabin steward, who I believe his name was Patrick or Vincent from Indonesia and had a son on board. He was due to finish his contract at the termination of this cruise and I think he was going to retire from work.
13. The first two days at sea heading for New Zealand was rough weather which resulted in the outside areas being closed and subsequently all passengers were restricted to the inside of the Ruby Princess making it uncomfortable to find seating. The third day on the cruise was very pleasant. We toured the Milford Sound and I spent a fair time on the balcony of our cabin.
14. On Thursday 12 March 2020, Lynette, Glenda [REDACTED] and I spent time in Dunedin with a relative for the most part of the day and returned to the Ruby Princess. Prior to getting off the Ruby Princess in Dunedin I noticed there was no virus scanning or process to enter New Zealand, as always you only have to scan your medallion which you are issued when you get on the Ruby Princess. This medallion is like your sail card, when you scan it at the security check points to exit the ship, your photo comes showing security who you are. When you come back to the Ruby Princess you scan your medallion to allow access back on. The medallion also allows you to pay for drinks and shopping whilst on board the Ruby Princess.
15. On Friday 13 March 2020, we visited Akaroa, leaving the ship by tender and spent most of the day with Glenda [REDACTED], shopping. The exiting of the Ruby Princess was the same process as the prior port, by scanning our medallion to get off the Ruby Princess and scanning to get back on. During this time there was no mention from any passengers or crew of the Coronavirus or any sickness on the Ruby Princess.
16. On Saturday 14 March 2020, the Ruby Princess stopped at Wellington, New Zealand. Lynette and I went with Glenda [REDACTED] to the war museum at the port. This was the first day that I knew that Henry [REDACTED] wasn't feeling well. At this stage, we had been dining regularly in the

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dining room with our friends and during the whole of the cruise I would have only attended the Horizon Buffet dining room once or twice. I was surprised that the Horizon Buffet dining room allowed people to serve themselves under the circumstances. During our time at Wellington, we were advised by Princess Cruises that we may have to return to Sydney without visiting the other ports. This announcement was made through the television in our cabin. However, later that evening we were told that we would be proceeding to the port of Napier and would be further advised about the circumstances. This was done through the Public Announcement System onboard the Ruby Princess, I'm not sure who made the announcement. At the time, we were advised we were going to Napier, there was a loud cheer from the passengers.

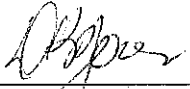
17. On Sunday 15 March 2020, the Ruby Princess arrived in Napier, the six of our group went and had coffee in Napier, which was in the main street. Henry was still un-well and I returned to the Ruby Princess with him earlier in the day. Later that evening, I was told that we would not be going to the remaining destinations and have been ordered to return to Sydney via the Public Announcement System. The announcement did not give any reason for the early return.
18. On Monday 16 March 2020, Lynette informed me that she was not feeling well, I already knew Henry wasn't feeling well and so both my wife and Henry left dinner early that evening. Lynette informed me that she was un-well and I thought she might have been sea-sick.
19. On Tuesday 17 March 2020, Lynette begun to feel extremely unwell and didn't attend lunch or dinner. On this day, advice was given from Princess Cruises that anyone feeling unwell, should attend the medical centre. Lynette was too sick to attend the medical centre on board the Ruby Princess. I thought it was just sea sickness.

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20. The following day, Wednesday 18 March 2020, Lynette went to the medical centre on the ship where she was diagnosed with having Influenza A and she was told by the medical staff, that I should go down and get tested which I did, later that afternoon. I was advised that I had a cold and would probably get Influenza A from Lynette. I knew that Henry was quite sick at this stage. Later that night, I spoke to our cabin steward, and he told me he would be getting off the ship at 5:00am the next morning and returning home. We had been advised on disembarkation that we were to proceed direct to our home and self-isolate for 14 days. This information was supplied to us by the Ruby Princess Staff. I believe that I did hear from one of the Princess Staff that the Ruby Princess would be docking in Sydney around 01.45am on 19 March 2020, but I cannot remember where I heard this information.

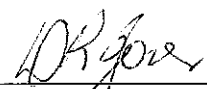
21. On Thursday 19 March 2020, Lynette, I and the rest of our group disembarked off the ship at around 8:10am and we were to be picked up by South Coast Limousines at approximately 9.00am to return home. There was no person from Princess Cruises or any Government Agencies giving us directions, processing or checking our passports or our health prior us getting off the Ruby Princess. I believe that the Ruby Princess Staff left me a small bag containing a surgical mask and rubber gloves, but I think Lynette picked it up. There was a delay in our bus, due to picking up passengers from another cruise (Sun Princess, at White Bay). I don't remember much about our disembarkation. Upon arrival at home and over the next coming days, Lynette's and my conditions got worse. I was very tired, to the point we didn't even unpack our luggage from the trip. We were both self-isolating and both of us were very unwell. I received a call from my niece who works as a nurse, she told me to go and get tested for Covid-19.

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22. On Tuesday 24 March 2020, Lynette and I both went to Wollongong Hospital where we both tested positive for COVID-19 as a result of feeling quite ill.


23. On Wednesday 25 March 2020, I was extremely un-well and I had to get an ambulance, to Wollongong Hospital where both Lynette and I were admitted to in the Isolation ward for eight days before being released. We were discharged from hospital on Friday 3 April, and self-isolated for a further 10 days until we received our clearance letters from the NSW Health Department on Tuesday 14 April 2020. I don't remember a lot during this time, due to the Coronavirus.

24. As far as the Coronavirus goes, I have no idea where it began on the Ruby Princess. It may have been a passenger on the previous cruise or passengers coming from overseas. Lynette and I are unaware whether the medical staff on the Ruby Princess had the facilities to test for the coronavirus or they were just advising people that they had Influenza A.

25. I believe the only reason I survived from Coronavirus is due to I lead a healthy active life through playing golf and eating well.


ANNEXURE: Princess Cruises, Medical Invoice and accompanied letter (Donald JONES).

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Dear Valued Guest,

I sincerely hope our medical team met or exceeded your expectations during your recent visit to the Medical Center, and I wish you a speedy recovery if you were ill. I encourage you to return for follow-up if advised by the medical staff, or if your recovery is not as expected.

Shipboard Medical Charges

Enclosed is an itemized statement of your medical center charges for Professional Services, Medications and Supplies. These charges will be added to your shipboard account. Unfortunately, we are not authorized to claim from insurance companies on your behalf.

Submitting Foreign Claims

We encourage you to contact your health or travel insurance provider to determine if you are eligible to submit a claim. If you believe your charges may be reimbursable, you should submit the enclosed itemized invoice *and* the shipboard paid Folio Receipt to your insurance provider within their allowable time limit. Be sure to specify that your reimbursement request is a "foreign claim." Because our ships are registered outside of the United States, the following information is not available:

- Doctor's tax ID, National Provider Identification, Social Security Number, Medicare Provider Number (MPN) or DEA number
- CPT codes, RVS Coded 1500 Forms, UB92 Forms, 40-1 Forms or any other health provider coding or forms.

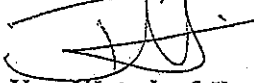
Medical Records

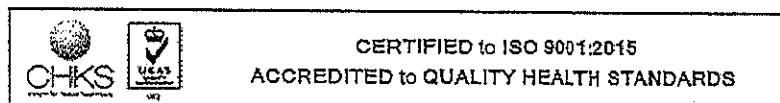
Most travel or health insurance providers require a copy of your medical records, the itemized invoice, and the paid Folio Receipt prior to processing any claims for reimbursement. While onboard, we can provide you with a copy of your medical records for a nominal fee, if requested before disembarkation.

Princess Cruises strives to deliver best-in-class guest experiences across all areas of our business. This includes our well-equipped medical centers that are accredited to over 300 health quality standards, and staffed by experienced, full-time medical professionals. An onboard service evaluation will be sent to you at the end of the cruise, and we welcome your feedback about your medical center experience. If for any reason our service did not meet your expectations, please let us know immediately so we may address your concerns prior to your departure from the ship.

We hope the remainder of your cruise is enjoyable, and we look forward to welcoming you on another Princess Cruises vacation in the near future.

Yours in Health,


Dr. Von Watzdorf, Ilse MD
Ship's Senior Doctor



INVOICE NO
8DE472C

RUBY PRINCESS MEDICAL CENTER

VISIT DATE
Mar 18, 2020

FOLIO

PATIENT NAME

CABIN

CRUISE NAME

TREATING PHYSICIAN

JONES, DONALD

Von Watzdorf, Ilse MD

PATIENT ADDRESS

Australia

BILL PREPARER

CHARGE DATE

SETTLEMENT TYPE

POLICY NUMBER

Matthee, Johan Wilhelm RN

Mar 18, 2020 18:44 UTC+12:00

FOLIO

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TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	TOTAL MEDICATIONS	TOTAL SUPPLIES	TAX	TOTAL CHARGES
\$171.00	\$62.40	\$41.78	\$0.00	\$275.18

SKU	CPT	PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
91630	--	Doctor - Consultation, Office Hours - Level 1: Low to Moderate Complexity	\$129.00	1	\$129.00
90711	--	Influenza A&B Test	\$42.00	1	\$42.00

SKU	MEDICATION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
MED150154	Oseltamivir Phosphate Capsule 75mg	\$12.48	5	\$62.40

SKU	SUPPLY	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
54	Influenza A&B Testing Supplies	\$41.78	1	\$41.78

FINAL DIAGNOSIS

Z20 - Contact with and exposure to communicable diseases

ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSIS

R05 - Cough

M/V RUBY PRINCESS

MAR 18 2020

SENIOR NURSE