



Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess

EXHIBIT 84

Statement of Ann Kavanagh dated 28 April 2020



NSW POLICE FORCE
STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

P190A

Version 4.51 (05/2015)

In the matter of: Ruby Princess Cruise

Place: State Crime Command Building

Date: 28 April 2020

Name: Ann KAVANAGH

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 68 years of age.
3. I have been married to my husband Kevin KAVANAGH for 50 years. Kevin and I have been on fourteen Carnival Princess cruises in the past.
4. Our first Princess Cruise was on the Sea Princess in 2014. Kevin and I boarded the cruise in August 2014 in Singapore. This cruise was about a fourteen-day cruise back to Perth. The Noro virus was on the cruise ship at the time. Other passengers told us upon boarding that they were sick with Noro Virus and Kevin and I were stunned that we were allowed to board. During the cruise, the ship stopped several times to unload sick or bodies from ship. Upon arriving at Perth at the end of the cruise the ship was named by the media as the ship of death. The Noro virus was a gastro virus. Kevin and I never got sick and maintained high hygiene standards throughout the voyage and future cruises.

Witness: 
KEVIN KAVANAGH

Signature: 
Ann KAVANAGH

28/04/2020
0900 AM

28/04/2020
0900 AM

Statement of
In the matter of

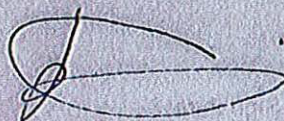
Ann KAVANAGH
Ruby Princess Cruise

5. I saw a cruise by Carnival that toured to New Zealand around the time of my birthday and Wedding anniversary. I booked tickets for Kevin and I, for a 13 day return trip from Sydney to New Zealand aboard the Ruby Princess cruise. This voyage departed 8 March 2020 from Circular Quay Sydney which returned 21 March 2020. I also booked another trip to Fiji on the Ruby Princess which left after the New Zealand cruise. This cruise was not due back until the 4 of April. I also booked with two other couples. Brenda [REDACTED] and John [REDACTED], Sheila and Burt [REDACTED]
6. The night before, Kevin and I booked a flight from Perth to Sydney which arrived at 6am 8 March. Kevin and I got on a train to Sydney and waited at a café to board. Our boarding time was booked for 12:30pm.
7. About 8am Kevin and I arrived at the passenger terminal in Circular Quay. I saw three Ambulances leave the passenger terminal. I saw passengers waiting around the passenger terminal. Our friend Brenda [REDACTED] was receiving text messages from the Carnival telling us about boarding being delayed. The delay was from the Department of Health being on board the ship.
8. Kevin and I boarded the ship at 8:30pm. The crew never mentioned the reason for the delay to board. Kevin and I were in good health upon boarding the ship. This was the first time for Kevin and I aboard the Ruby Princess.
9. Kevin and I were allocated [REDACTED] This room is located on the Plaza deck and in the middle of the boat.
10. The Ruby Princess commenced the cruise.
11. Kevin and I would frequent the Skywalkers bar, plaza deck 5, Princess theatre, Vista lounge, wheelhouse bar, Botticelli dining room, Crooners bar and concierge desk. Most of the time we would meet the rest of the group at these places.
12. At 7:30pm every night we would attend Botticelli restaurant and sit at table 118. About 8:30pm one night, on the way to New Zealand I was seated at table 118 in the Botticello restaurant with rest of the group. Every night was the same waitress and waiter. The female waitress was serving coffee and sneezed on me. Droplets of her sneeze sprayed and hit me on the face. The waitress was holding a cup of coffee in one hand and the coffee pot in the other. I wiped my face, mad and shocked that she sneezed on my face. She was carrying hot things at the time.

Witness:



Signature:



KEVIN KAVANAGH

Ann KAVANAGH

28/4/2020

0900 AM


28/04/2020
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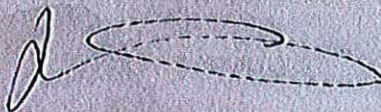
Ann KAVANAGH
Ruby Princess Cruise

13. At this stage on the cruise there was no talk about the virus.
14. On 12 March the Ruby Princess attended the Port of Dunedin New Zealand. Kevin and I got off the ship and travelled via bus to the township. We returned to the ship at the end of the day.
15. On 13 March the Ruby Princess attended the Port of Akaroa. Kevin and I attended a coach tour to the town of Akaroa and Christchurch which went for a couple of hours. We returned to the ship at the end of the day.
16. On 14 March the Ruby Princess attended the Port of Wellington. Kevin and I did a cycling tour which went for a few hours before returning to the ship.
17. On 15 March the Ruby Princess attended the Port of Napier. Kevin and I attended the township and returned to the ship after a couple of hours.
18. The following day the cruise was travelling to the next Port. Kevin and I were informed that the cruise was returning to Australia and the rest of the cruise had been cancelled. Kevin and I were also told that our Fiji cruise was also cancelled. Kevin and I had to buy new tickets online to travel back to Western Australia.
19. I was never informed of any COVID-19 virus onboard the ship by any crew member. I did receive some pamphlets under our room door from Border Force and Department of Health.
20. I started to get stomach cramps on the way home. I had diarrhoea for the last few days of the cruise. I took Imodium which is medication to stop diarrhoea. I never saw the ships doctor or attended the medical centre on board. I didn't want to ruin everyone experience on the voyage home. The Imodium took affect and I was better for the rest of the voyage.
21. I never saw any other person sick or being quarantined aboard the Ruby Princess. Kevin asked the concierge desk staff if anyone had symptoms of the COVID-19 virus and they said no. When the ship turned around back to Australia. The concierge desk was busy all the way back with passengers making calls.
22. Crew staff had stopped passengers refilling coffee mugs on the way home. I noticed crew members keeping distance from passengers.
23. When we arrived at Circular Quay Sydney on the 19 March. About 7:45am we left the ship. Kevin and I left the ship with no queuing and it was easy. I don't think we even showed our passports on the way out. Kevin and I got into a taxi which drove us to Sydney Airport. Kevin

Witness:



Signature:



KEVIN KAVANAGH

Ann KAVANAGH

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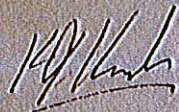
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**Statement of
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Ann KAVANAGH
Ruby Princess Cruise

- and I attended the Virgin Lounge in Sydney Airport and left for Western Australia on a Virgin Flight at about 1:30pm. During the flight to Western Australia I started to get shivers.
24. Kevin and I arrived in Western Australia the same day. Kevin and I and were picked up, by our friend Ian ILLSEY. Ian drove us home. I was cold and wrapped up in blankets. I was shivering sweating with a fever overnight.
25. On Friday 20 March, Both Kevin and I attended Sir Charles Gardner Hospital to be tested for COVID-19. Later that day my results returned a positive for COVID-19. Kevin result was negative the following day.
26. On Sunday 22 March, I was having trouble breathing, sore throat, high temperature with a fever. Kevin and I attended St John of Gods Midland Hospital Emergency. Kevin rang ahead and told medical staff about my positive result to COVID-19. Kevin drove me down to the hospital and I was admitted. I was in a negative pressure room which was sealed whilst being treated.
27. Over the next few days my condition was getting worse. I was transferred to ICU as I was getting sicker. I wasn't able to breathe, and it was affecting me badly.
28. On 29 March I had respiratory failure and Hospital staff put me in an induced coma. I was intubated and put on a ventilator to help me breathe. I was on a ventilator for eight days.
29. I was in hospital just under four weeks. The last four days in hospital I tested negative for COVID-19.
30. On Wednesday 22 April I was released from the Hospital. Kevin and I had to maintain isolation as my immune system is so low at the moment. I need to continually see Doctors about my health. I am seeing a Doctor in June to check my lung function for any damage as a result of the COVID-19 virus.
31. On 28 April 2020, I provided a statement to Police about the cruise.

Witness:



Signature:



28/04/2020

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KEVIN KAVANAGH

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