



Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess

EXHIBIT 86

Statement of Paul Reid dated 15 May 2020

**STATEMENT OF A WITNESS****In the matter of:** M.V Ruby Princess - Passenger C2**Place:** Strike Force BAST**Date:** 15 May 2020**Name:** Paul Nicholas REID**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 41 years of age.
3. On Sunday the 8th of March 2020, my wife, Rachel REID and I boarded the Princess cruise ship 'Ruby Princess' for a 13 night round trip to New Zealand, returning to Sydney on Saturday 21st of March 2020. Rachel had booked the cruise, our accommodation was in cabin [REDACTED], Caribe deck, level 10. We were travelling alone.
4. I had been on one cruise 20 years ago, more recently Rachel has cruised on a Carnival ship to Moreton Island.
5. We both fell ill on board and later back in Sydney both tested positive for COVID-19.
6. On the 14th of March I was feeling unwell with a sore throat, but the air conditioning in our room was strong and I thought the throat may have been because of the air conditioner. Then on the 16th my symptoms deteriorated to now a fever, hot and cold sweats, sore throat, bad cough, runny nose and body aches and pains.
7. Rachel was o.k. at this stage. She didn't develop any symptoms or feel unwell until towards the end of the cruise with a scratchy throat and diarrhoea.

Witness:

Terry King
Terry KING
Detective Senior Constable
Strike Force BAST
15 May 2020

Signature:

Paul Reid
Paul Nicholas REID
15 May 2020

Statement of Paul Nicholas REID
In the matter of M.V Ruby Princess - Passenger C2

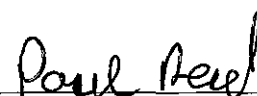
8. On the 16th of March at 6pm I went to the medical centre with Rachel, I recall the time because the door to the medical centre closes at 6pm and we just got in before they closed. I spoke to the medical office receptionist, who appeared annoyed that we had turned up, she handed me a form to fill out answering questions about my medical details and condition. The receptionist also handed me a face mask to wear. I remember the receptionist and doctor also wearing face masks.
9. Rachel and I sat down in the reception area to fill out the form, Rachel completed the form for me as I wasn't feeling well. We waited about 45 minutes after handing the form back, there was another woman in the office getting attention for an injury to her ankle (she thought that she may have been bitten by an insect as her ankle was swollen and sore), I also noted there must have been other patients in the back in a bad way because staff were rushing to assist those persons.
10. After 45 minutes I saw a male doctor in the consultation rooms, Rachel waited for me in the waiting room. I was swabbed and tested for infection, funny thing was when I was later tested back in Sydney they used two swabs, swabbing both my nose and throat, but, on the boat he took a nose swab only and then to check my throat I was told to say 'Argh' and he looked down the throat. My throat was not swabbed.
11. I saw him take the nose swab and place it in some kind of a testing kit on the table in front of me, ten minutes later I was told I had 'Influenza'. He said it wasn't Corona, and more likely to be a common cold.
12. I was told to wear a face mask back to the room, wasn't told to isolate, but given a script for medication and left. No one spoke to Rachel and asked if she felt unwell nor was she told to isolate/wear a mask. I remained in the cabin for the first day or so, but, I got hungry, we decided to pick later times to eat because I was coughing and didn't want to come under notice and get kicked off the boat in a foreign country and be unable to get back.
13. There was no follow up or contact from the medical office or other staff on board, the only subsequent contact we had was on the last night when I noticed a bag on the door handle sent to the cabin with a face mask stated that as I had presented myself at the medical centre to

Witness:



Terry KING
Detective Senior Constable
Strike Force BAST
15 May 2020

Signature:




Paul Nicholas REID
15 May 2020

Statement of Paul Nicholas REID
In the matter of M.V Ruby Princess - Passenger C2

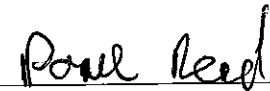
please wear the mask outside of the room in the morning and on the way home along with information from NSW Health advising self-isolation for 14 days.

14. Once off the ship back in Sydney we caught an Uber home, we told the driver I had been tested as negative on board to COVID-19.
15. At home on the Friday the 21st and Saturday the 22nd Rachel's condition worsened, we began seeing news reports and thought we may have this virus. Rachel called her local GP and arranged to be tested at the first available time, Monday the 23rd, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Her GP called on the 25th stating the test result was negative.
16. She got a call from NSW Health the following day, Thursday the 26th, they told Rachel her test result was incorrect and in fact the correct result was positive to COVID-19. Rachel asked them why the result was wrong, but they wouldn't give an answer. On the 26th I was advised by NSW Health to be tested as well, Rachel was in quarantine and got dispensation from NSW Health to drive me to Westmead Hospital and stay in the car while I was tested.
17. Friday the 27th NSW Health called to inform me I had also tested positive. By now my condition had deteriorated, my asthma had been activated and breathing was hard, the person at NSW Health heard this when I was speaking on the phone and they called the ambulance to have me taken to hospital at Westmead, I was placed in ICU and later discharged on the 29th.
18. I don't recall seeing anyone unwell or ill, except in the medical centre, when on the cruise. As far as we were concerned it was totally safe. We did notice at different times the ships emergency phone used on three separate occasions, by passengers and one time by crew. We didn't see what the situation was.
19. From the time we were on board there were announcements made concerning washing hands and coughing into shoulders etc, use our cabin bathroom not the public toilets, if possible. And to seek medical attention if ill or unwell.
20. The other announcement I recall was the Captain announcing the ship was returning to Sydney, this announcement was made after leaving Napier, the Captain said the reason was Scott Morrison the Australian Prime Minister was closing borders, stopping all cruise ships from entering.

Witness:


Terry KING
Detective Senior Constable
Strike Force BAST
15 May 2020

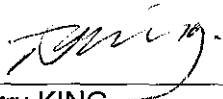
Signature:


Paul Nicholas REID
15 May 2020

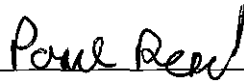
Statement of Paul Nicholas REID
In the matter of M.V Ruby Princess - Passenger C2

21. Our cabin Steward was a man named 'Jose' he was with us the entire cruise. Jose cleaned our cabin three times a day wiping benches, tables, chairs, wiping down the bathroom, changing linen and if we used the bathroom would clean it after. We saw railings, lift buttons and balustrades cleaned by crew, there were crew stationed at each entry point of the restaurants and buffets with hand sanitiser machines making sure people used them. They were also at the entry/exit points on the dock when we got on and off the ships at each port.
22. The ship stopped at Dunedin, Akaroa, Wellington and Napier, I got off the ship at each town. Rachel stayed on board in Akaroa as she was feeling unwell. We had booked tours before we got on the boat, two through Princess and one through the travel company.
23. A routine day on board was once we were up and out of the cabin we would sometimes have breakfast then walk around the ship talking to other people, played bingo a few times, watched a few shows, go to the cafes and bars have lunch at Da Vinci room or the Salty Dog. Dinner we had 'anytime' dining, we only ate together and at different tables.
24. From the morning on the 8th of March, at home in Sydney, we received a text message that there was a delay in the boarding times and come at 3pm and not at 1pm (which was our original check in time), then a little later received a 2nd text about the boarding time had changed again but it was a little unclear as to when we should arrive so we decided to go to the Overseas Passenger terminal where we arrived around 1pm.
25. When we arrived at the terminal, there were long queue delays for check in but we were able to do a bag drop easily and then we spoke with a staff member who said go and have some lunch and be back at the terminal around 3pm. We then came back again around 3pm and lined up in a queue and we were able to check in, get our medallions etc. We then got told by another staff member to leave the terminal and be back at the terminal no later than 5pm.
- We arrived back to the terminal a bit before 5pm and whilst waiting in the queue, we received a text from princess cruises saying to go and have some dinner close by as NSW health were conducting checks and they will let us know when they have more information.

Witness:


Terry KING
Detective Senior Constable
Strike Force BAST
15 May 2020

Signature:


Paul Nicholas REID
15 May 2020

Statement of Paul Nicholas REID
In the matter of M.V Ruby Princess - Passenger C2

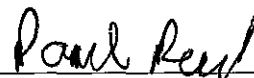
26. When we received the text, Rachel was unsure if it was authentic and should we really leave so she saw a group of princess cruise workers standing in a group of around 5 people and went over to talk with them. She spoke to a male employee and he said everything was fine, NSW Health were on board doing a 'random' check but he didn't know how much longer they would be and was told definitely go have dinner somewhere as it probably won't be till late till we can board. She asked him so everything is ok on board, no corona and he said yes, everything is fine, it is just a random check that NSW health is doing on our boat.
27. During dinner, we then got a message saying the ship had been cleared to leave and asking passengers to be back by 9pm as the ship was leaving at 10pm.
28. We spoke to a number of staff when moving through the various stages at boarding, security, passport etc and we asked on each occasion and the reply was basically 'no issue, the vessel was good to go'.
29. Back in February with the Diamond Princes situation in Japan, I contacted Princess Cruises and made inquiries with Princess about fare refunds. However, Princess were saying there was no issue here and they were unable to refund due to the fact there was no issue with Coronavirus or COVID-19.

Witness:



Terry KING
Detective Senior Constable
Strike Force BAST
15 May 2020

Signature:



Paul Nicholas REID
15 May 2020