

Bundaberg Hospital Commission of Inquiry

STATEMENT OF MR B

MR B makes oath and says as follows:

1. I reside in the Bundaberg district and I have provided my address to the Commission.
2. I was born on 5 February 1973 in Liverpool, NSW. I grew up in Brisbane and moved to Bundaberg about 10 to 12 years ago. I now work as a fisherman on a spanner crab boat.
3. I was aware that I had a hernia. In early October 2004 I had a painful attack while I was out at sea working. I went to the emergency section at the Bundaberg Hospital. I saw a doctor, I think he was Croatian and I had trouble understanding him, I do not recall his name. He told me that I should get a referral from my GP. The next day I returned with a referral. I saw a female doctor who said I should have been admitted straight away, not sent away to obtain a referral.
4. On that same day I saw Dr Patel for an assessment and he booked me in for surgery. He advised me it was a large hernia and it would be basic surgery with no chance of it strangling. He said that because the ring of the hernia was so large there was no chance of it strangling. He said we can fix this. He said I should be back at work within two weeks.
5. ~~I saw Dr Patel two weeks later for a pre-operative examination.~~
6. On 11 October 2004 I had surgery for a right inguinal hernia. The medical records show that Dr Patel performed this surgery assisted by Dr Kariyawasam.

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Signed: . . .
Deponent

Taken by: . . . 
Solicitor/Justice of the Peace

7. I saw Dr Patel after the operation and he told me that he had severed the right vas. On my discharge summary it is noted that my right vas was severed accidentally. He said I could have microsurgery but I had a fifty-fifty chance of having children in the future. I have not had microsurgery.
8. I went home and encountered great problems including swelling and pain. I was black and blue over the area of the operation. On one occasion, I returned to the hospital. I was in such pain that on the way to the hospital I was on my hands and knees in the back of the car. When I got to hospital I was told it was a small bleed and to go home and put a cold pack on it. I do not recall the name of the doctor who told me this but I recall he was on Dr Patel's team.
9. I required further surgery on the 3 December 2004 after an ultrasound showed a build up of fluid. This surgery was drainage to liquefy the haematoma. The medical notes indicate that the procedure was a "small hydrocoele". The charts indicate that Dr Patel performed this surgery assisted by Dr Kariyawasam. I was discharged on the same day as the surgery.
10. On 7 December 2004 I was in absolute agony and went back to the emergency ward. I was told that I had an infection and for two days I was put on intravenous antibiotics. I had another ultrasound which showed I needed another operation.
11. On 9 December 2004 I underwent a procedure involving an incision and drainage to reduce a scrotal haematoma. The medical records indicate that this procedure was performed by Dr Kariyawasam assisted by Dr Athanasiov.
12. I remained in hospital until 17 December 2004. I had a drain placed into my scrotum. I had to carry around a blood bag for three days. I was still in a great deal of pain when I was discharged.

13. I was unable to work for ^{four} ~~three~~ months. I work on a spanner crab boat. The baskets of crabs weigh approximately 30 kilograms each. I have to be very careful when carrying heavy loads. My boss has to help me unload the boat.
14. On 20 April 2005, I received the results of a recent ultrasound which show I still have an infection. My GP prescribed antibiotics and referred me to Doctor De Lacey at the Mater Hospital, Bundaberg.
15. I saw Doctor De Lacey at the Mater Hospital, Bundaberg on Friday 6 May 2005. He advised me that I required two further surgeries. He advised me that as a result of the vas being cut, I may lose a testicle. He also advised me that the infection was still present. He told me to stop taking the antibiotics that my GP had prescribed.
16. On 1 June 2005 Dr De Lacey was able to perform the two procedures on the same day. He removed the mesh that had been placed by Dr Patel and inserted a new one. He said that he had never seen the mesh placed in that position before. He said that part of the bowel was wrapped in the mesh. I have been much more comfortable since this operation.
17. I didn't lodge a formal complaint about Dr Patel. I raised my concerns with several nurses and one of the other surgeons. The surgeon I spoke to told me it was just a bad outcome and that this happens sometimes, I do not remember the name of this surgeon. One of the nurses gave me a complaint form however I didn't lodge it.

Affidavit sworn on
at 6-7-05

in the presence of:

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Deponent

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Solicitor/Justice of the Peace