


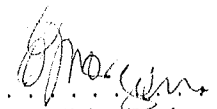
Bundaberg Hospital Commission of Inquiry

STATEMENT OF DORIS JAN HILLIER

Doris Jan Hillier 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 27 April 1948 in Bundaberg and have lived in Bundaberg all my life. I have two children. My husband has now passed away.
3. Over the last thirty years I have had quite a few operations at the Bundaberg Hospital. I have not had to deal with the administration much until recently but I have found them to be quite rude.
4. On 22 August 2004, I developed very bad pain. I thought I was having a heart attack. When the ambulance came, the paramedic staff thought that too. One paramedic put a spray under my tongue. He asked if I had any other problems. I told him that I had cysts in my ovaries and gallstones. At that point he said that he was pretty sure that it wasn't a heart attack after all but a gallstone problem.
5. The ambulance took me to casualty and I was admitted to a ward. I was in terrible pain and they gave me an enema.
6. Dr Patel came to my room the next day. He told me not to be such a baby about the pain. He said that they would put me on a diet of soup and jelly and keep me in for a short time for observation and then they would discharge me. He said that I should arrange to come back for surgery in 6 to 8 weeks so that my gall bladder could be removed. He was quite rude with me.

Signed: 
Deponent

Taken by: 
Solicitor/Justice of the Peace
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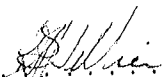
7. I was discharged ^{the following Thursday} after a day or so. During the following week, I developed shooting pain in my stomach. I went to see my general practitioner, Dr Kaminoff in Takalvan Street on Saturday 28 August 2004. He made a call to the Hospital and I was admitted that same day to the Hospital.
8. I was admitted into the care of Dr Geoff De Lacy and Dr Risson. I saw Dr Risson and he told me that he would be doing the operation, or at least assisting Dr De Lacy in the operation. I never saw Dr De Lacy but I have been told that he did the operation. It happened at 1pm on Sunday 29 August 2004. I did not ever see Dr De Lacy after the operation.
9. After the operation, I was in terrible pain. I have given birth twice and I have had a hysterectomy but it was much worse than those experiences. The pain was terrible.
10. On the Monday morning, Dr Patel came to see me. He said that the gall bladder was badly infected and they had taken it out altogether.
11. On the Tuesday, I was still in horrible pain. I had some redness on my stomach and I asked a nurse about it.. She said that it was because I had a rash. My daughter came to see me on both the Monday and the Tuesday and she said that I seemed to be getting worse. By the Tuesday, the rash was right across my stomach.
12. A friend ^{tuesday} came to visit me on the Wednesday. She wanted to talk to the nurses about the redness but they said they could not discuss my case with her because she was not related. My daughter came up and she spoke with Dr Patel about the redness. He said that it was just a haematoma. The conversation happened in front of me and I remember that Dr Patel said, in answer to a comment that I was in lots of pain, that I would know what pain was if I had cancer.

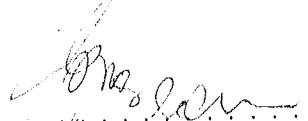
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Solicitor/Justice of the Peace

13. They then put a drip in me so that they could administer antibiotics. I think they put approximately 21 cannulas into my arm. All but one of them blew out because my blood pressure was so high.
14. Before ^{my friend} left, she got a pen and marked around my rash. I remember that by the next day, the rash had crept about 1 inch beyond the line. It gradually changed. It got to a point where my stomach became really hot and there were welts across the area, rather than just redness. In the meantime, they were trying different antibiotics to deal with it.
15. My daughter then called Dr De Lacy at the Friendlies Hospital. He said that I was Dr Patel's patient and it would not be ethical for him to become involved. My daughter said that he did the operation so he should follow it up, but he declined to do that.
16. On the Thursday, I was feeling really terrible and looking awful and I really thought that I might die.
17. On Friday, Dr Patel came to see me with two dark skinned doctors. They had names like Ashish and Yousis. I remember that Yousis had rectangular glasses. I said to Dr Patel that they should get me to Brisbane. I said that I thought I was in real danger. He said he would organise for tests to be done. I was taken for tests and then returned to the ward. Yousis then came up to me and said that I had streptococcal. He said that it was a life threatening condition and that I could die from the condition or the surgery. He said that they needed to open the wound and scrape out the area. He said that I could be left with significant scars.
18. Dr Patel came in after that. I said that I didn't want to die. He said that was nonsense and I wasn't going to die. He said that if I had waited the six to eight weeks as he had told me, this would never have happened. I formed the impression that he was saying that the infection would not have happened if he had been in charge of the operation.

Signed: 

Taken by: 

Solicitor/Justice of the Peace

19. At this point, I was treated as an emergency. I went straight to theatre for the operation. There were three scars afterwards. They put padding ^{in with} on my wounds and sent me home. *after 8 days*
20. I came to the clinic on the following ~~Saturday~~ ^{Sunday} I remember Dr Risson was there but he didn't seem to know what to do. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The nurse told him that they should take a swab and after that it happened every time I went there.
21. I would have my wounds dressed at home each day or dressed at hospital every second day.
22. I remember that on one visit on 14 September 2004 there was an argument between Dr Patel and a nurse. She said that the welts were healing over too quickly and that they needed packing. He disagreed and I could hear him from the next room. In the end, he gave in. He came into my room and gave me an anaesthetic. He started stitching and I said I could still feel it. He said of course you can still feel it because it's a local anaesthetic and the wounds go deep. In the end, they needed two nurses, my daughter and a junior doctor to ^{comfort} hold me down whilst Dr Patel did the stitching. *held me down with his left arm across my chest and*
23. I was stitched so tight, the flesh was sticking out and after a week or so it started to rot. I went back up to the Hospital and a Dutch nurse attended to me. I remember that she was about to give me a double dose of morphine. I said that she probably shouldn't because I had already taken a synthetic drug called Endone but she did anyway, and I was horribly sick.
24. After that, I went to my general practitioner. He washed down the wound and dressed it.
25. I did notice a lump in my stomach that grew. I was supposed to see Dr Patel on 6 April 2005 but of course he'd gone by then. I have spoken to my doctor about the lump. It's the size of a small pawpaw now. My GP has told me that I have a major hernia. [REDACTED]

~~_____~~ The lump is my bowel which is poking out through the stomach wall.

26. I am going to see Dr Anderson at the Friendlies and I am hoping that he will operate immediately to fix the hernia. I understand that it is very dangerous. If the bowel becomes strangled in the hole, it could cause my death.

Affidavit sworn on 13 July 2002
at Bundaberg in the presence of:

[Signature]
Deponent

[Signature]
Solicitor/Justice of the Peace
[Signature]

Signed: [Signature]
Deponent

Taken by: [Signature]
Solicitor/Justice of the Peace