

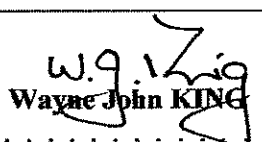
Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry

STATEMENT OF SCOTT ANDREW CRAWFORD

I Scott Andrew CRAWFORD of The Prince Charles Hospital Chermside in the State of Queensland SWORN:

1. I am a duly qualified medical practitioner registered in the State of Queensland. I am currently the Director of Orthopaedics at the Prince Charles Hospital at Chermside. I have been in this position for six (6) years and I am employed by Queensland Health.
2. I hold the degree of MB BS from the University of Queensland (1986) and a Fellowship in Orthopaedic Surgery (RACS – 1997).
3. I am aware that as a result of a review conducted by the Australian Orthopaedic Association the orthopaedic services at the Fraser Coast Health Services District (FCHSD) were reduced in May 2005. This meant that there were no operative services at Hervey Bay Hospital and limited outpatient services were offered.
4. I am aware that this situation came about as a result of an investigation conducted by Doctors North and Giblin who had been appointed by the Australian Orthopaedic Association to carry out the investigation after a request was made to that Association by Queensland Health to have such a review carried out. Their final report became known as the North/Giblin report.
5. I am aware that portion of this review conducted by them disclosed that two of the Senior Medical Officers (SMO's) practising in orthopaedics at the Hervey Bay Hospital, Doctors KRISHNA and SHARMA, may not have been appropriately qualified to carry out procedures that they had been performing at that hospital without supervision.
6. Subsequent to the review and the findings set out in the North/Giblin report a Patient Liaison Service was established by Queensland Health in order that patients

Scott Andrew CRAWFORD
 Signed: 
 Deponent


Wayne John KING
 Taken by:
 Solicitor/Barrister/Justice of the Peace/
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who had been the subject of orthopaedic procedures by the doctors at the Hervey Bay Hospital could have those procedures reviewed if they wished to do so.

7. As a result of my position as a full-time specialist employed by Queensland Health I had the flexibility to take time from my normal duties to take time to travel to Hervey Bay and volunteer my services to assist in the review of any patients that may have sought such a review. This came about as a result of Queensland Health establishing a Patient Liaison Service and advertising a hotline telephone number that such patients could contact if they wished to do so to have the orthopaedic treatment they had received reviewed.
8. I have had a number of visits to the hospital which occurred on the 02 June 2005; 23 and 24 June 2005; 14 and 15 July 2005; 28 and 29 July 2005; 11 and 12 August 2005; 25 and 26 August 2005 and 7 to 9 September 2005.
9. During these visits I have seen a total of ninety (90) patients with one hundred and twenty-seven (127) occasions of service. The patients I have seen and treated have fallen into three categories and they are (a) Patients who had contacted the hospital via the hotline and had requested a review of their treatment (b) those who were currently on the elective surgical waiting list at Hervey Bay Hospital who had previously been seen and put on a waiting list for elective surgery prior to May 2005 and (c) assorted other sources including patients I was requested to review by the Senior Medical Officers (SMO's) from the hospital, Drs. Sharma and Krishna and Dr. PADAYARCHAY from the Maryborough Hospital from their fracture clinics or emergency Department.
10. Other Orthopaedic Specialists from Brisbane had carried out similar work to me at the Hospital as well and I saw some of their patients at the requests of those specialists.
11. I am aware that Drs. Sharma and Krishna S.M.O's from the Hervey Bay Hospital had been referred to in the North/Giblin Report.
12. The patients who had made contact via the hotline for a review of their treatment numbered in the vicinity of about forty (40) and included patients of Drs. Sharma and Krishna and also the Director of Orthopaedics at the hospital, Dr. Morgan NAIDOO.
13. As a result of these reviews I found a mixture of outcomes. There were some patients with good outcomes as a result of procedures including some with better

then expected outcomes. There were a number of patients, and I don't know the exact number, who had had elective surgery where the outcome was not satisfactory.

14. I can recall one (1) patient who had bad outcomes because of an inappropriate choice of procedures by the surgeon who carried them out. That patient was a Mr. P442 who had been operated on by Dr. Krishna for an elective foot surgery which had been carried out in an inappropriate fashion. This subsequently required corrective surgery which I did in Maryborough.
15. There were a number of other patients who had poor outcomes arising from their surgery where this was not necessarily related to the quality of the surgery and the negative outcome may have occurred anyhow.
16. I am also aware of three (3) other patients who had appropriate surgery but had subsequent problems relating to the way the surgery was performed. Both of these patients required corrective surgery by me in Maryborough. They were all patients of Dr. Krishna.
17. Those patients were a P443 who has subsequently been referred to and reviewed by Dr. Peter ROWAN at the RBH who is planning corrective surgery. P443 had hand surgery which had been carried out by Dr. Krishna.
18. There was a P444 and a P445 both who had foot surgery by Dr. Krishna and on both of whom I have performed corrective surgery as a result of technical shortcomings in the work of Dr. Krishna.
19. There was a further patient who I saw having had previous surgery carried out by both Drs. Naidoo and Krishna where the operation was poorly performed and is likely to lead to a long-term outcome. That patient was a P446 who had a fractured tibia. P446 fracture has healed but because of the quality of his operation it is foreshadowed that he will have subsequent problems with arthritis.
20. I don't recall having to review any patients who received inappropriate treatment by Dr. Sharma.
21. Almost every patient I examined I prepared a dictated report about which was usually sent to the patient's General Practitioner and a copy of this letter was filed in the patient's case notes at the hospital and I have a copy for my own records.
22. As a result of my review of the cases I have mentioned and in the time that I was there I found that both Drs. Sharma and Krishna seemed to be willing and keen to

Signed: Scott CRAWFORD
Deponent

Taken by: W.J. King
Wayne John KING
Solicitor/Barrister/Justice of the Peace/
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seek advice. As I only saw patients from the hotline and am not aware of the number of cases that might have been dealt with at Hervey Bay by the Orthopaedic doctors I am not in a position to say whether problems were common or to say whether to say if their choice of procedures was appropriate or not.

23. I have been shown a Scope of Services document to-day which refers to the work assessment of Dr. Krishna by Dr. Naidoo and one of the patients I reviewed, P443 had an operation carried out by Dr. Krishna which was a Excision of Dupuytren Disease and my review revealed that this particular operation on P443 was inadequately performed.
24. Two other patients that I have mentioned in this statement, Patients P445 and P444 had foot operations carried by Dr. Krishna and that operation is listed as First MTPJ Arthrodesis and is shown as one he can carry out independently. My review indicated that the operations carried out by him contained technical errors.
25. One other, P442, had surgery for rheumatoid foot disease which is shown on the list as one that Dr. Krishna can independently carry out. My review of this patient showed that his particular operation by Dr. Krishna was carried out incorrectly.
26. I am not in a position to make a general comment as to the capabilities of Dr. Krishna's ability to carry out operations contained in this list other then from the patients of his that I have reviewed. My comments in relation to each of those operations have been included by me in this statement.
27. As a result of my review of the patients who responded to the hotline and who had been treated by Drs. Naidoo, Sharma and Krishna I don't believe I am in a position to make any comment about their standard of care in a broad manner.
28. Should it be necessary to produce a copy of my dictated notes that I made of the patients that I reviewed I am in a position to do so.

Signed: Scott CRAWFORD
Deponent

Taken by: Wayne John KING
Solicitor/Barrister/Justice of the Peace/
Commissioner for Delegations

Affidavit Sworn on 16 September 2005

at Enoggera

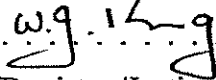
in the presence of:

Scott Andrew CRAWFORD




Deponent

Wayne John KING

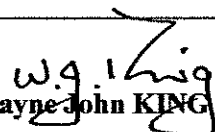


Solicitor/Barrister /Justice of the Peace/
Commissioner for Declarations

Scott CRAWFORD

Signed: 
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