

# Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry

## STATEMENT OF CHERYL EVELYN BRENNAN

I, Cheryl Evelyn BRENNAN of an address known to the Commission of Inquiry in the State of Queensland make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been employed by Queensland Health since 1989. I am currently employed in the Deputy Director General's Office as Executive Support Officer. I have only been in my current role for a period of six weeks.
2. Between about 1998 and mid 2005, I was employed as Executive Support Officer to the General Manager Health Services ("GMHS"). My role in this position involved reporting to the GMHS and to the Principal Policy Adviser of that office. Unless otherwise stated, at all times relevant to this statement Dr. Steve BUCKLAND was GMHS and Ms. Deborah MILLER was the Principal Policy Adviser.
3. In my role in the GMHS' office, my key duties were to:
  - a. Compile a daily diary for the GMHS.
  - b. Ensure that correspondence reached the appropriate action officer, including the GMHS, in a timely fashion. I did not see all correspondence to and from the GMHS for a number of reasons including:
    - i. The Principal Policy Adviser would take the correspondence as soon as it arrived.
    - ii. The correspondence was hand delivered to the GMHS or the Principal Policy Adviser.
4. My role did not involve offering advice or undertaking analysis of the content of submissions, briefs and correspondence.
5. In my role I was also required on occasions to provide minute taking support at Monday morning meetings between the GMHS, the Principal Policy Adviser and Zonal Managers. However, I was not always required to attend those meetings. Apart from the Monday meetings I did not attend meetings held by the GMHS.
6. On Thursday, 29 September 2005, I was shown a copy of a submission to the General Manager (Health Services) prepared by Col ROBERTS, Principal Project

Officer Surgical Access Team, dated 30 July 2003. The subject title of that submission was, "Reclassification of Emergency Presentations as Elective Surgery". On Tuesday, 27 September 2005 I was also shown the original of a submission to the General Manager (Health Services) prepared by Col ROBERTS, Principal Project Officer Surgical Access Team, dated 30 July 2003. I did not go through the content of either document. The front page of the document on Thursday, 29 September 2005 appeared to be a copy of the document I was shown on Tuesday 27 September 2005. Those are the only occasions I recall seeing that document. However, I recognised the hand writing "12/8" and "12MD" as being my hand writing, therefore I believe I have seen it before. My recollection of having seen it only relates to the two times that I have highlighted in this statement.

7. Apart from my handwriting referred to in Paragraph 6 and the signatures and stamps, the handwriting on the front page is Deb Miller's. That handwriting includes:

*"Cheryl = delete  
from system  
= organise meeting [with] Glenn & Col & Gary"*

8. I do not recall the direction referred to in Paragraph 7 or whether I carried it out.
9. It was not my role to review the content of submissions that came into the GMHS' office. Accordingly, I do not find it surprising that it is difficult for me to recall a specific submission or direction given to me. Although I do not recall the direction referred to Paragraph 7, should it have been given to me then I believe I would have carried it out.
10. I understand the note on the front page "delete from system" to mean that the submission should be removed from RecFind and not that the document itself should be destroyed. This request was not unprecedented. I occasionally removed documents from RecFind myself because the document had already been entered on the system. On occasions, I was also asked to remove documents from RecFind. There may have been a number of reasons why I was asked to remove documents, including:
- a. Duplication.
  - b. That the document contained inaccurate data and needed to be reviewed.
  - c. Failure to consult with appropriate people.

11. Based on Deb Miller's instruction to me to "organise meeting [with] Glenn & Col & Gary", I think the document was probably taken off RecFind because there was something wrong with the submission itself which required further discussion.
12. In accordance with my usual practice, I believe I would have organised a meeting for Gary Walker, Dr Cuffe, Col Roberts, Dr Buckland and Deb Miller for 12pm on 15 August 2003.
13. It has been suggested to me that a meeting was held by Dr. Buckland with Mr. Col ROBERTS, Mr. Garry WALKER and I on 15 August 2003. It has been suggested to me that at that meeting Dr. Buckland expressed his displeasure that the contents of the said submission were put in writing. It has been suggested to me that Dr. Buckland indicated that the reason for his displeasure was that the document might be accessed under Freedom of Information Legislation.
14. I have no recollection of the meeting referred to in Paragraph 13 and I have no recollection of attending it. I do not believe that I would have attended this meeting because I did not attend meetings in Dr. Buckland's office except for occasionally attending the Monday morning meetings that I have referred to earlier in this statement.
15. It has been suggested to me that I was instructed by Dr. Buckland to communicate a direction that all the electronic and hard copies of that the submission referred to in Paragraph 4 herein be destroyed. It has also been suggested to me that I communicated that direction to Dr. Glenn CUFFE, the Manager Procurement Strategy Unit. I do not recall Dr Buckland giving me such a direction or communicating same to Dr Glenn Cuffe.
16. I was required to carry out and communicate a significant number of directions in the normal course of my duties. Accordingly it is difficult for me to now recall a specific direction that may have been given some time ago.
17. I cannot recall whether I have been directed or asked to convey a direction to others to destroy all hard and electronic copies of any documents. If I had been given such a direction or asked to convey such a direction my role would have been to carry it out or pass it on.
18. I have been shown a document titled "Submission to General Manager (Health Services)" from Mr. Col Roberts, Principal Project Officer, Surgical Access Team dated 11 September 2003. I have no recollection of ever having seen this

Cheryl Evelyn BRENNAN

Signed: . . . . .  
Deponent

Taken by: . . . . .  
Solicitor/Barrister/Justice of the Peace/  
Commissioner for Declarations

document. I have been shown a document titled "A Briefing to the General Manager (Health Services)" prepared by Mr. Gary Walker, Manager Surgical Access Team dated 15 October 2003. I have no recollection of ever having seen this document.

19. It has been suggested to me that in early 2004, after the State Election, Dr. Buckland was told by Ms. Deb MILLER that the document referred to earlier in this statement as having been subject to an alleged direction from Dr. Buckland that it be destroyed, had been seen on Gary Walker's desk. It has also been suggested to me that upon learning this Dr. Buckland expressed his displeasure to Dr. Cuffe who then communicated same to Mr. Walker. It has been suggested to me that Mr. Walker then telephoned me to arrange an appointment to meet with Dr. Buckland. It has also been suggested to me that such a meeting took place.
20. I have no recollection of any of the events mentioned in Paragraph 19. In my role I received numerous telephone calls a day from people requesting appointments with the GMHS and it is not surprising that I do not recall this specific telephone conversation if it occurred. However, from about November 2003, Dr Buckland was the Acting Director-General of Queensland Health and Dr John Scott was the Acting GMHS. When Dr Buckland became Director-General, I ceased to be his Executive Support Officer and became Dr Scott's Executive Support Officer. Therefore in early 2004, I would not have been in a position to schedule appointments for Dr Buckland.


Statement SWORN on 29 September 2005

at Brisbane in the presence of:

Cheryl Evelyn BRENNAN



Deponent



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

Cheryl Evelyn BRENNAN

Signed: . . . . .  
Deponent

Taken by: . . . . .  
Solicitor/Barrister/Justice of the Peace/  
Commissioner for Declarations