

# Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry

## STATEMENT OF GLENN PHILIP CUFFE

I Glenn Philip CUFFE of an address known to the Commission of Inquiry in the State of Queensland SWORN:

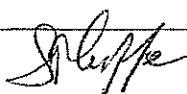
1. I am an employee of Queensland Health. My current position is Director, Analysis and Evaluation Unit, Innovation Branch, Innovation and Workforce Reform Directorate. I have been employed with Queensland Health since 29 June 1975 and in my present position since July 2004. Prior to my present position I was the Manager, Procurement Strategy Unit from 1999.
2. At all relevant times referred to in this statement, Mr. Gary WALKER was the Manager of the Surgical Access Service ("SAS") and reported directly.
3. On 30 September 2005, I was shown a document entitled "Submission to: General Manager (Health Services)" dated 30 July 2003, prepared by Mr Col ROBERTS, Principal Project Officer, Surgical Access Service ("the 30 July 2003 submission:").
4. I recognize my signature and the initials of Mr Walker on the 30 July 2003 submission. I do not recognize any of the other hand writing on that document. I do remember seeing this document around the time of its creation.
5. The 30 July 2003 submission was a document that was generated by the SAS. It was prepared by Mr. Col Roberts and cleared by Mr Walker. It was a submission to draw the General Manager for Health Service's ("GMHS"), Dr. Steve Buckland, attention to the issue of the reclassification of emergency presentations to elective surgery presentations.

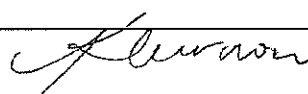
Page 1

Glenn Philip CUFFE  
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deponent

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

- 6 On 15 August 2003, Mr Roberts, Mr Walker and I met with Dr. Buckland about the contents of the 30 July 2003 submission. Ms Deborah Miller, who I think at the time was in a role titled the Chief of Operations Liaison Officer, was also present. Attached and marked "GPC-1" is a copy of my diary for 15 August 2003.
7. At the 15 August 2003 meeting, Dr. Buckland gave instructions to the SAS to liaise with the District Managers of Districts that had been highlighted in the 30 July 2003 submission to confirm the accuracy of the statistics that had been reported.
8. It has been suggested to me that on seeing the 30 July 2003 submission Dr Buckland said, "Why the fuck did you put this into writing?" I have no memory of that statement being made by him. I also have no memory of Dr. Buckland expressing any concerns that the document might be accessed under Freedom of Information laws.
9. I do not recall anyone at the 15 August 2003 meeting expressing displeasure that the document did not have the endorsement of the Zonal Managers following consultation with the Zones/Districts.
10. In respect of certain types of documents that were submitted from the SAS to the GMHS's Office, there was a standing direction that such documents be subject to consultation with the relevant Districts and hospitals and the endorsement of the Zonal Managers before being sent to Dr Buckland. My understanding is that direction related to submissions and briefings about surgical activity targets, funding associated with those targets, and the annual business rules associated with the elective surgery program. That direction did not apply to all submissions and briefs originating from the SAS. I did not understand the direction to apply to submissions such as the 30 July 2003 submission.
11. Shortly after the 15 August 2003 meeting, although I am not sure now when this occurred, I received a phone call from Ms Cheryl Brennan, the Executive Secretary of Dr. Buckland at that time. I do not now recall exactly what Ms Brennan said. However, she communicated a direction that hard copies of the 30 July 2003 submission held in the SAS were to be destroyed and that the copies on the network were to be deleted. At the time, based on what Ms Brennan said and her position, I





understood this direction to have come from the GMHS's office and that it would have been given with Dr Buckland's knowledge.

12. Immediately after the phone call between myself and Ms Brennan, I went to see Mr Walker and Mr Roberts, who worked on the floor below where I was located. I conveyed the direction communicated by Ms Brennan to them. During my discussion with Mr Walker and Mr Roberts, we agreed that the SAS would retain an electronic copy of the 30 July 2003 submission.

13. I have no recollection of any reason being given to me by Ms Brennan for this document being destroyed.

14. I did not ever query the direction with either Dr Buckland or Ms Miller.

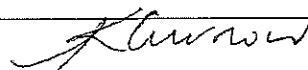
15. On 30 September 2005, I was shown a document which is entitled "Submission to: General Manager (Health Services)" dated 11 September 2003, prepared by Mr. Col Roberts, Principal Project Officer, SAS. Whilst I do not recall the document it appears to be the follow up document from the consultation process that Dr. Buckland had ordered at the 15 August 2003 meeting.

16. On 30 September 2005, I was also shown a document entitled "A Briefing to the General Manager (Health Services)" dated 15 October 2003, prepared by Mr. Walker ("the 15 October 2003 briefing"). I recognize this document as one prepared by Mr. Walker specifically to again raise the issue of the ongoing reclassification of emergency records with Dr. Buckland.

17. To the best of my recollection, Mr Walker brought the 15 October 2003 briefing to my office on about 15 October 2003. Mr Walker told me he still felt strongly about the issues raised in the 30 July 2003 submission and that he wanted to, again, raise them with Dr. Buckland to highlight that he felt they needed addressing and considering. At the end of our conversation, he gave me the original of the 15 October 2003 briefing.

18. I took the 15 October 2003 briefing from Mr Walker and hand delivered it to Dr. Buckland. To the best of my recollection, I handed it to Dr Buckland later on the





same day that Mr Walker gave me the original briefing. I wanted to make sure that he personally received the document and that is the reason that I did not leave it with Ms Brennan or the Executive Services Correspondence section, which was the standard correspondence protocol. However, what I did would not have prevented Dr. Buckland from taking the document outside his office to Ms. Brennan and having it formally registered on Recfind.

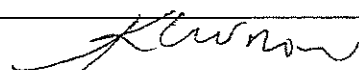
19. When I delivered the 15 October 2003 briefing to Dr. Buckland I said to him that it had been prepared by Mr Walker and was a further brief on the reclassification issue for his consideration. Dr Buckland just took the document from me. I did not have a formal appointment to see him on that day and I left his office after I handed him the brief.
20. I did not hear anything further about the 15 October 2003 briefing after delivering it to Dr Buckland. Nor did I hear anything further about the 30 July 2003 submission following the 15 August 2003 meeting.
21. I had a conversation with Dr. Buckland quite some time after the 15 August 2003 meeting. To the best of my recollection, Dr Buckland was Acting as Director-General of Queensland Health. I can't recall whether it was either by telephone or following another routine meeting I had with him.
22. During the conversation, Dr. Buckland raised two issues with me in relation to Mr Walker.
23. The first issue related to a Medical Superintendents' meeting. Medical Superintendent's meetings were held each month. Mr Walker was a regular attendee at those meetings. Dr Buckland told me he had heard that at one of the Medical Superintendents meetings Mr Walker had quoted him in relation to an issue that I now do not recall. Dr Buckland said he objected to Mr. Walker quoting him.
24. The other issue Dr Buckland raised was that a staff member had seen a copy of the 30 July 2003 submission in the SAS work area.

*M. H. H. H.*

*K. Brown*

25. Immediately following this discussion with Dr Buckland, I went down and saw Mr Roberts and Mr Walker and asked them about the status of the document that the staffer had seen in the SAS work area. I also conveyed to Mr Walker Dr Buckland's concerns about what had apparently occurred at the Medical Superintendents' meeting. At the time, I had no idea who the staffer was that had seen the document in the SAS work area.
26. Mr Walker saw me a day or two later and said he thought he should go and see Dr Buckland to clear the issues up and sought my advice about this. I suggested that he seek a one-on-one meeting with Dr Buckland.
27. Sometime later, Mr Walker told me that he had an appointment with Dr Buckland.
28. Following his meeting with Dr Buckland, Mr Walker told me that he had told Dr Buckland that he had destroyed the 30 July 2003 submission and that whoever had reported to Dr. Buckland that they had seen it may have been confused with the 15 October 2003 briefing that had been on his desk. Mr Walker told me that Dr. Buckland had told him that Ms Miller was the staffer who had seen the document and reported back to him.
29. With regard to the Medical Superintendents' meeting, Mr Walker said he had given Dr Buckland a copy of the Minutes of the Medical Superintendent's meeting.
30. Mr Walker also told me that Dr. Buckland had given him a job which related to a whole swag of election commitments that had to be reported on and the SAS were to be the reporting unit for progress against the election commitments.
31. Based on the fact that Dr Buckland gave Mr Walker a job in relation to reporting on progress against election commitments, it is likely that the meeting between Dr Buckland and Mr Walker was in about February 2004 or soon thereafter.
32. This encapsulated what had occurred at the meeting between Mr Walker and Dr Buckland as related to me by Mr Walker.





33. To the best of my recollection, Dr Buckland had the original of the 30 July 2003 submission at the 15 August 2003 meeting. However, I cannot recall sighting the front page of the original 30 July 2003 submission at the meeting held on 15 August 2003. This is the last time I sighted the original submission.


34. Aside from my signature and Mr Walker's initials, the first time I saw the handwritten notes which were on the copy of the 30 July 2003 submission shown to me on 30 September 2005 was on 30 September 2005.

Statement SWORN on 2 October 2005

at Brisbane

in the presence of:

Glenn Philip CUFFE

  
Deponent



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

'GPC-1'

August  
WEEK 33

September 2003

October 2003

November 2003

M	1	8	15	22	29	M	6	13	20	27	M	3	10	17	24		
T	2	9	16	23	30	T	7	14	21	28	T	4	11	18	25		
W	3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29	W	5	12	19	26	
T	4	11	18	25		T	2	9	16	23	30	T	6	13	20	27	
F	5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31	F	7	14	21	28	
S	6	13	20	27		S	4	11	18	25		S	1	8	15	22	29
S	7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26		S	2	9	16	23	30

Assumption Day (France, Greece, Italy) Liberation Day (S.Korea)

227/138 Friday 15

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9.00

9.30

10.00

10.30

11.00

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1.00

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4.30

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6.00 pm