

RE: URGENT: Fact-checking of draft report for hotel quarantine incident 1.

From: "Merrin Bamert (DHHS)" <REDACTED>
 To: REDACTED (DHHS)" REDACTE@safercare.vic.gov.au>
 Cc: REDACTED (DHHS)" REDACTED@safercare.vic.gov.au>, REDACTED (DHHS)" REDACTED@safercare.vic.gov.au>
 Date: Thu, 21 May 2020 21:28:06 +1000

REDACTED

Regards

merrin

Merrin Bamert

Commander, Operation Soteria, Covid - 19
 Director, Emergency Management, Population Health and Health Protection
 South Division
 Department of Health and Human Services
 Level 5 / 165-169 Thomas Street, Dandenong, 3175
 p. 03 REDACTED, REDACTED
 e. REDACTED

From: Merrin Bamert (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 9:21 PM
To: REDACTED (DHHS) <REDACTE@safercare.vic.gov.au>
Cc: REDACTED (DHHS)" REDACTED@safercare.vic.gov.au>; REDACTED (DHHS) REDACTED@safercare.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Fact-checking of draft report for hotel quarantine incident 1.

Hi

I am not sure how to review the facts of this report as I am only aware of my involvement which was the call at 6pm so not sure how to do what you are asking. I can only confirm that what you have been told about the day is the same as I what I observed in his notes.

I can say however though that the roles listed on page 7 are incorrect – line two under organisation and management.

We did not have the EOC set up and therefore did not have a commander or dep commander at that time.

This operation was being managed out of a range of sites with no clear operational structure (which is why I worked on the Saturday morning) the same day REDACTED to start drafting one.

I am not sure who you would say was in charge at that point however email traffic was going to the SEMT.

I was certainly not the commander (and had no official role on any structure) at the time so the timelines on page 6 need to change I was called by Jason Helps (SCC) to go in on the night and assist as they wanted an exec to help out and I had been assisting the hotels from the commencement of the policy.

The EOC structure did not officially commence till the following week. Its first official day was the following Friday 17 April

Regards

Merrin

Merrin Bamert

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p: REDACTED
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From: REDACTED (DHHS) <REDACTED@safercare.vic.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 10:09 AM

To: Merrin Bamert (DHHS) <REDACTED@safercare.vic.gov.au>

Cc: REDACTED (DHHS) <REDACTED@safercare.vic.gov.au>; REDACTED (DHHS) <REDACTED@safercare.vic.gov.au>

Subject: URGENT: Fact-checking of draft report for hotel quarantine incident 1.

Good morning Merrin,

Thanks once again for your assistance while we have been undertaking two reviews relating to incidents in hotel quarantine. We appreciate your time and your efforts in assisting us to access the evidence and information required for the review.

Attached is a draft report in relation to what we refer to as incident one (involving the person CP), which we are providing first. The report relating to the other incident (involving the person EC) will follow shortly. We are providing this draft to you for the purposes of fact-checking, prior to the draft being finalised. Please do not distribute the draft any further.

We ask that you provide feedback specifically about any factual inaccuracies in the report's content. Should you highlight any inaccuracies, please note that we may require further information to assist us in contextualising and verifying the new information.

Please keep in mind that, as per standard incident review methodology, the information in the report describes – based on the evidence examined by the review team – events and circumstances as they relate to what happened 'on-the-ground' on the specific days in question, involving the specific individuals and the specific hotel. The information may be accurate, while also differing from your own high-level understanding of how the system operated more generally at the time (e.g. as you would have expected, or at different hotels, or in other circumstances).

Please also keep in mind that, as per standard incident review methodology, the information in the report refers to the state of the hotel quarantine at the time of the incident, and intentionally does not describe any changes that may have occurred since that time. Once the report is finalised and provided to the agreed receivers, Appendix 1 provides the opportunity for any changes in the system since the incident to be recorded and explained, including noting any recommendations already actioned.

To facilitate us providing the report to the Operation Soteria Working Group by early next week, please provide any feedback by COB Friday 22 May 2020.

Regards,

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