

IN THE MATTER OF the Inquiries Act 2014

AND IN THE MATTER OF a Board of Inquiry into the COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Program

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name: Andrew Crisp

Occupation: Emergency Management Commissioner

Address: Emergency Management Victoria, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Date: 14 August 2020

I, Andrew Crisp, Emergency Management Commissioner, say as follows:

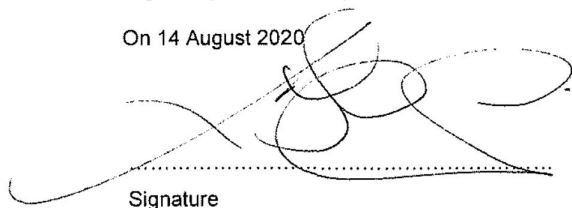
1. I make this statement in my capacity as Emergency Management Commissioner in response to:
 - a. the questions asked of me by the Board of Inquiry into the COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Program (the **Board**) in the letter from the Board dated 2 August 2020; and
 - b. in response to a Notice to Produce dated 2 August 2020 and numbered NTP-034.
2. This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
3. I have been asked to describe the responsibilities and key accountabilities, and names and usual Departments or organisations, of the persons who fulfilled the roles listed in Annexure 1 of the list of questions asked of me by the Board. Subject to the matters set out below, I have provided this information in the table at Annexure A to this statement.
4. Some of the roles listed in Annexure 1 of the list of questions are part of the Department of Health and Human Services' (the control agency) chain of command (namely, the State Health Coordinator, Public Health Commander, Deputy Public Health Commander(s), Department of Health and Human Services Agency Commander, COVID-19 Enforcement and Compliance Commander, COVID-19 Operation Soteria Commander, COVID-19 Accommodation Commander, Deputy Commander Detention Hotels (and their Operations Team Leader(s) and Team Leader(s)) and Deputy Commander Welfare (and their Operations Team Leader(s) and Team Leader(s))). The Department of Health and Human Services is best placed to provide the information sought with respect to these roles.
5. The role of Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Agency Commander reflects the allocation of responsibility to that department by the Department of Premier and Cabinet for the sourcing of

appropriate accommodation contracts (including food, concierge and security) to support mandatory passenger isolation and providing ongoing support to passengers for these needs. The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Agency Commander is best placed to provide the information sought with respect to this role.

6. The Department of Premier and Cabinet and Department of Transport are support agencies to the control agency, and those departments are best placed to provide the information sought with respect to their representatives' roles.

Signed by Andrew Crisp

On 14 August 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrew Crisp', written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Signature

Annexure A

No.	Operation Soteria Role	Responsibilities and key accountabilities	Personnel names and usual Departments/organisations – period 1 April to 1 July 2020				
			At 1 April 2020	At 1 May 2020	At 1 June 2020	At 1 July 2020	At any other time from 1 April 2020 to 1 July 2020 (if not already addressed)
1	State Controller – Health	<p>For a Class 2 emergency, a State Controller is appointed by the officer in charge of the control agency (here, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services). The State Controller – Health is also referred to as the State Controller or the Class 2 State Controller.</p> <p>The State Controller – Health's responsibilities are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead and manage the response to the emergency; • establish a control structure for the emergency as appropriate and monitor it to ensure it suits the circumstances; • issue warnings and information to the community in relation to the emergency, if regional or incident tier controllers are unable to do so in a timely manner; • support the Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC) to identify current and emerging risks or threats in regard to the emergency and implement proactive response strategies; • support the EMC in the development of a state strategic plan for managing the emergency; • give directions to regional and/or incident controllers if applicable; • work with the EMC to lead the State Control Team; • participate in the State Emergency Management Team; 	<p>Jason Helps DHHS</p> <p>Andrea Spiteri DHHS</p>	<p>Jason Helps DHHS</p> <p>Andrea Spiteri DHHS</p>	<p>Jason Helps DHHS</p> <p>Andrea Spiteri DHHS</p>	<p>Jason Helps DHHS</p> <p>Andrea Spiteri DHHS</p>	N/A

No.	Operation Soteria Role	Responsibilities and key accountabilities	Personnel names and usual Departments/organisations – period 1 April to 1 July 2020				
			At 1 April 2020	At 1 May 2020	At 1 June 2020	At 1 July 2020	At any other time from 1 April 2020 to 1 July 2020 (if not already addressed)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> oversee the operational functioning of the State Control Centre (SCC) or other facility from where the emergency is being managed, in relation to the emergency; ensure the timely flow of relevant information to the EMC, the State Coordination Team, the State Control Team, the State Emergency Management Team, and other support teams and stakeholder agencies; and apply the EMC operational standards and incident management procedures as appropriate. <p>The State Controller – Health manages impacts of COVID-19 across the broader community.</p> <p>The State Controller – Health (through the Deputy State Controller (Operation Soteria)), operating through the COVID-19 Accommodation Commander, has operational accountability for the quarantine accommodation of returned travellers.</p>					
2	Deputy State Controller (Operation Soteria)	Operation Soteria is led by the Deputy State Controller (Operation Soteria) reporting to the State Controller – Health, to give effect to the decisions and directions of the Public Health Commander and COVID-19 Enforcement and Compliance Commander.	Chris Eagle DELWP Scott Falconer DELWP	Chris Eagle DELWP* Scott Falconer DELWP*	DHHS**	DHHS**	*Chris Eagle and Scott Falconer finished as Deputy State Controllers for Operation Soteria on 1 May 2020. **Note: Rowena Hansen was seconded from DJCS to DHHS to undertake the Deputy State Controller (Soteria) role. DHHS is better placed to confirm the dates of this secondment.
3	State Health Coordinator (DHHS role)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
4	State Relief Coordinator <i>Note: this is not an Operation Soteria specific role. The role is part of</i>	Neither the State Emergency Relief Coordinator (SERC) (also known as the State Relief Coordinator) or the State Relief and Recovery	REDACTED s73(e) the member otherwise consid		<i>Note: From 20 May 2020 – 6 July 2020 No SERC was named. Only a</i>	<i>Note: From 20 May 2020 – 6 July 2020 No SERC was</i>	N/A

No.	Operation Soteria Role	Responsibilities and key accountabilities	Personnel names and usual Departments/organisations – period 1 April to 1 July 2020				
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	<i>the State Emergency Management arrangements.</i>	<p>Manger (<i>SRRM</i>) have had any direct involvement with Operation Soteria.</p> <p>The <i>SRRM</i> oversees the Relief and Recovery function within the SCC to provide overall high level coordination and assurance of emergency relief for the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The EMC may appoint a SERC to provide additional and more specific direction for relief coordination of particular activities.</p>	<p>Sharon MacDonnell EMV</p> <p>REDACTED s73(e) the mem</p>	<p>Sharon MacDonnell EMV</p> <p><i>Note: From 20 May 2020 – 6 July 2020 no SERC was named. Only a SRRM was named for this time.</i></p>	<i>SRRM was named for this time.</i>	<i>named. Only a SRRM was named for this time.</i>	
5	Public Health Commander (DHHS role)	<p>For Operation Soteria, the Public Health Commander (through the Deputy Health Commander / delegate) is responsible for approving the Operation Soteria Plan, in consultation with the COVID-19 Enforcement and Compliance Commander, COVID-19 Accommodation Commander, the State Health Coordinator and the State Controller – Health.</p> <p>See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.</p>					
6	Deputy Public Health Commander(s) (DHHS role)	(See row 5 above)					
7	State Control Centre Strategic Communications <i>Note: this is not an Operation Soteria specific role. The role is part of the State Emergency Management arrangements.</i>	<p>The State Control Centre Strategic Communications Manager is responsible for managing public communications about the consequences and recovery requirements of the emergency in line with the EMC's legislative responsibilities.</p> <p>The State Control Centre Strategic Communications Manager has also provided assistance to DHHS, who, as the control agency, is responsible for all communications to the public about the emergency. This has included assisting DHHS with the moderation of social media posts.</p>	REDACTED s73(e) the mem	REDACTED s73(e) the membe	REDACTED s73(e) the member o	REDACTED s73(e) the mem	N/A

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			At 1 April 2020	At 1 May 2020	At 1 June 2020	At 1 July 2020	At any other time from 1 April 2020 to 1 July 2020 (if not already addressed)
		and assisting with the facilitation of whole of government communication of issues and risks (via the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee and State Control Team and State Coordination Team). All tasks are taken on notice and taken back to DHHS as control agency.	REDACTED s73(e) the member				
8	Department of Premier and Cabinet Representative	A supporting agency to the control agency. See comment at paragraph 6 of this Witness Statement.					
9	Department of Transport Representative	A supporting agency to the control agency. See comment at paragraph 6 of this Witness Statement.					
10	Senior Police Liaison Officer – Victoria Police <i>Note: this is not an Operation Soteria specific role. The role is part of the State Emergency Management arrangements.</i>	The Chief Commissioner of Police appoints the Senior Police Liaison Officer under section 57 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i> (Vic). The Senior Police Liaison Officer liaises with and provides relevant information to the EMC during major emergencies.	REDACTED s73(e) the member otherwise considers the prohibition or restriction appropriate				N/A
11	Department of Health and Human Services Agency Commander (DHHS role)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
12	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Agency Commander (DJPR role)	See comment at paragraph 5 of this Witness Statement.					

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13	COVID-19 Enforcement and Compliance Commander (DHHS role)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
14	COVID-19 Operation Soteria Commander (DHHS role)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
15	COVID-19 Accommodation Commander (DHHS role)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
16	Deputy Commander Detention Hotels, and their: (DHHS roles)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
	(a) Operations Team Leader(s)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
	(b) Team Leader(s)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
17	Deputy Commander Welfare, and their: (DHHS roles)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
	(a) Operations Team Leader(s)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					
	(b) Team Leader(s)	See comment at paragraph 4 of this Witness Statement.					