

**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: 12 September 2020

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

1. I make this statement in my capacity as Emergency Management Commissioner.
2. I have made two previous statements to the Board of Inquiry into the COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Program (the **Inquiry**). My first statement is dated 14 August 2020 [**DOJ.600.002.0008**] (**First Statement**). My second statement is also dated 14 August 2020 [**DOJ.600.002.0001**] (**Second Statement**).
3. This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

**Correction to response to Question 14(a)**

4. In paragraph 32 of my First Statement, in response to Question 14(a), I stated that I first became aware that the Victorian Hotel Quarantine Program was to be established on hearing the Prime Minister's announcement on 27 March 2020.
5. At the time of making my First Statement, I had relied on my memory and had not gone back to reading the entries in my Incident Management Logbook [**DOJ.514.001.0001**; **DOJ.514.001.0005**; **DOJ.514.001.0027**]. Since making that statement, I have read the notes I made in that Logbook on 27 March 2020. Having read those notes, I now recall that I first became aware that the Victorian Hotel Quarantine Program was to be established during a meeting with Minister Neville on 27 March 2020. I do not recall what time this meeting took place, but based on a Microsoft Teams invitation I have in my calendar, I believe it commenced at 1.30pm. I believe it took place before the Prime Minister's announcement.

**Addition to response to Question 18**

6. In paragraph 46 of my First Statement, in response to Question 18, I stated that I attended a planning teleconference within the State Control Centre at 4.30pm on 27 March 2020 during which a representative of Victoria Police (Assistant Commissioner Mick Grainger) confirmed that it was the preference of Victoria Police that private security be the first line of security at the accommodation, and that Victoria Police respond as required.
7. Since making my First Statement, I have read the text messages I exchanged with Mick Grainger on 27 March 2020. Having read those messages, I now recall that during the 4.30pm teleconference, I received a telephone call on my mobile phone from Graham Ashton, then the Chief Commissioner of Police. I recall that I stepped out of the 4.30pm teleconference to take Mr Ashton's call. I have checked my mobile phone call log which records that I received a call from Mr Ashton at 5.15pm on 27 March 2020. I do not have any specific recollection of what Mr Ashton told me during our telephone call.
8. To the best of my recollection, after that telephone call, and while the 4.30pm teleconference was still taking place, I sent Mr Grainger a text message at 5.20pm [DOJ.515.001.0014]. That text message stated:

*I stepped out to speak to Graham and I let him know you're in this meeting as he's only just come out of VSB. He made it clear in VSB that private security is the first security option at hotels/motels and not police*

"VSB" is a reference to the Victorian Secretaries Board.

9. It was after my telephone call with Graham Ashton that the following exchange took place in the teleconference [DOJ.511.001.0001] at 53 minutes 11 seconds of the recording:

*Andrew Crisp: Sorry John, can we, and again apologies I missed I did step out again, but in terms of security at accommodation, have we covered that? Private security, Victoria Police I understand that the preference of Victoria Police or the Chief Commissioner is that private security be the first line of security and the Police to respond as required. Is that your understanding Mick?*

*Mick Grainger: Yes it's Mick Grainger here. Absolutely that's our preference.*

*Andrew Crisp: So just curious as to who is going to take responsibility around contracting private security? Is that DJPR?*

*Claire Febey: Yeah, I understand that's for us to take up.*

**Addition to response to Question 28**

10. In paragraphs 74 and 75 of my First Statement, in response to Question 28, I stated that it was my view on 27 and 28 March 2020 that the Australian Defence Force did not need to play a role in coordinating or managing the detention of international travellers and returning residents as part of Operation Soteria. I stated that I reached this view following consideration of the requirements of each of the phases of the operation and a number of discussions that I was involved in with representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services, the State Controller – Health and representatives of Victoria Police.
11. Requests for Australian Government non-financial assistance (which includes a request for assistance from the Australian Defence Force) are made under the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (**COMDISPLAN**) (see also paragraph 69 of my First Statement). COMDISPLAN requires a requesting state to include in its request an explanation as to why the requirement cannot be met from the jurisdiction's existing resources (see sections 1.3.1, 2.3, 5.2 (Annex B)). It was with this requirement in mind that I reached the view described in paragraphs 74 and 75 of my First Statement, because at that time in my view we were able to meet the needs of the operation from Victoria's existing resources. This was largely based on my understanding that DJPR was engaging private security to be the first line of security at the accommodation and that Victoria Police were available to provide additional support as required upon request.

**Text messages and Incident Management Logbook in preparation of First Statement and Second Statement**

12. Since preparing my First and Second Statements I have reviewed text messages from the relevant period as well as had the opportunity to review my Incident Management Logbook. I did not have the benefit of that material at the time as I was focussed on searching for relevant emails, plans and policies in response to the Notices to Produce issued by the Inquiry. This was an oversight on my part which this Supplementary Statement is intended in part to correct.
13. I keep my Incident Management Logbook in my office at the State Control Centre. I bring it with me to meetings, and have it with me while on telephone calls. I take notes in it, on an ad hoc basis, regarding matters that arise.

**Response to matters raised in statement of Brett Sutton**

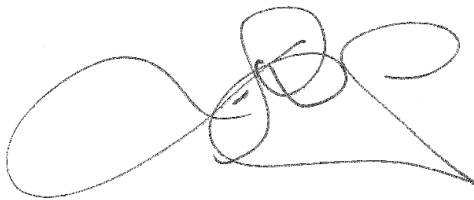
14. I have read the Witness Statement of Brett Sutton dated 13 August 2020 [**DHS.9999.0002.001**].
15. At paragraph 163 of Professor Sutton's Witness Statement, he refers to my legislative functions, and apparently deduces from those that I am responsible for "the ultimate approval of any operational plan" [**DHS.9999.0002.0030**]. Professor Sutton's deduction is not correct. As described in response to

Question 3 in my First Statement, the control agency (here, the Department of Health and Human Services) is responsible for managing and leading the operational response to the emergency. In practice, this includes ensuring that any operational plans are appropriate. I authorise the release of any such plans for distribution and ensure that they are in accordance with the State Emergency Response Plan. Although the *Emergency Management Act 2013* (Vic), the State Emergency Response Plan and the State Health Emergency Response Plan don't say so explicitly, this is consistent with what I understand my legislative responsibility to be regarding the coordination of agencies and responses, and for ensuring effective control arrangements have been established and are maintained.

16. At paragraph 168 of Professor Sutton's Witness Statement, he states that "Under the governance structure of Operation Soteria, the State Controller ultimately reported through to the EMC". While I am aware that diagrams within the Operation Soteria Operation Plan showed a solid line between the State Controller Health and the Emergency Management Commissioner (see, for example, the diagram at paragraph 60 of my First Statement), the State Controller does not report to me. Such diagrams need to be understood in the context of my legislative functions. As described in response to Question 3 in my First Statement, I am responsible for ensuring that the State's response to an emergency is coordinated, and that effective control arrangements are in place. The operational response to the emergency is led by the control agency (through the State Controller). I do not have a "hands on" operational role for the carrying out of an operation, such as Operation Soteria, nor does the State Controller report to me.

**Signed** by Andrew Crisp

On 12 September 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

.....  
Signature