

**IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD OF
INQUIRY INTO THE COVID-19 HOTEL
QUARANTINE PROGRAM**

AFFIDAVIT OF LISA MARY NEVILLE

I, **LISA MARY NEVILLE**, of [address withheld], Geelong in the State of Victoria swear as follows:

1. I make this affidavit in answer to supplementary questions asked of me in a letter dated 16 October 2020 from the Board of Inquiry into the COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Program.
2. I have previously provided a written statement to the Board (tendered as Exhibit 196) and gave oral evidence to the Board on 23 September 2020.
3. The questions asked of me are set out below, together with my responses.

Question 1 – The Inquiry has received telephone records indicating that the Premier’s Chief of Staff, Ms Lissie Ratcliffe, called you at 1.39 pm on 27 March 2020, with the ensuing call lasting 5 minutes and 5 seconds. Assuming this is the call referred to at paragraph 20 of your statement, this call appears to have lasted longer than you recalled it being.

1.1 Does this information refresh your memory regarding the nature and extent of things discussed? If so, please provide details.

4. I believe that this was the phone call referred to in my statement (at paragraph 20) and in my oral evidence (at transcript reference T1948.30-1950.22).
5. To the best of my recollection, and as I explained in my statement and my oral evidence (at paragraphs 20 and 31 and transcript reference T1948.30), during this phone call:
 - (a) I first learned that there would be a hotel quarantine program (**HQP**);
 - (b) I was informed that the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions would be responsible for standing up the HQP; and
 - (c) I also discussed a series of new limitations on permits to acquire firearms, which had been a topic of discussion at the National Cabinet meeting. As I said in my oral evidence, that was of particular interest to me (T1948.35; T1949.5). Firearms regulation fell within my area of Ministerial responsibility, and I understood that I would be immediately involved in implementing these new restrictions.
6. On that day, I was also working with Victoria Police, Emergency Management Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to develop a strategy to manage crowds at beaches and piers and the like. It was the start of the school




holidays and good weather. Most of my day and weekend was focused on that, so it is possible I also discussed the development of that strategy and the work Victoria Police was already doing that day.

1.2 Was there any discussion regarding enforcement options, including security at hotels, during the conversation? If so, please provide details.

7. No.

Question 2 – The Inquiry has received telephone records indicating that Ms Ratcliffe called you again at 2.36 pm on 27 March 2020, with the ensuing call lasting 40 seconds. We understand this to have been shortly after your meeting with Commissioner Crisp and then Chief Commissioner Ashton.

2.1 Do you remember what was discussed? If so, please provide details.

8. I have no recollection of this 40 second phone call.

2.2 Was there any discussion regarding enforcement options, including security at hotels, during the conversation? If so, please provide details.

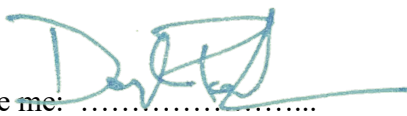
9. As I say above, I have no recollection of this phone call.

10. As I said in my statement at paragraphs 24 and 44, I was not involved in making decisions about the structure or operation of the HQP, so I do not believe I had a conversation about the HQP with Ms Ratcliffe at that time.

The contents of this affidavit are true and correct and I make it knowing that a person making a false affidavit may be prosecuted for the offence of perjury.

SWORN by LISA MARY NEVILLE at)
Geelong in the State of Victoria on this 23rd)
day of October 2020)



Before me: 

Doug Porteous
Rm 706, 180 William Street Melbourne 3000
An Australian Legal Practitioner within the
meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law
(Victoria)

This affidavit is an electronic copy and not an original, was signed by electronic means and witnessed by audio-visual link in accordance with the COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) (Electronic Signing and Witnessing) Regulations 2020.