



EXTRACT OF TRANSCRIPT OF COMMISSION HEARING

FRIDAY, 1 JULY 2022

MS BENNETT: Commissioners, your Counsel Assisting team appear to seek an adjournment of the balance of today's witnesses. We propose that their substantive evidence be called back before this Commission in the middle of August, that being the balance of the witnesses being Dr Renshaw and Ms Morgan-Wicks.

I'd now like to identify the reasons that I seek that adjournment, Commissioners, and that is that there was a medical emergency prior to this adjournment application and that event has had an impact on all present, including those due to give evidence.

It is our obligation, our duty, to ensure that the very best evidence is available to this Commission and, in our view, it is our recommendation that end is best served by adjourning the balance of today.

I'd like to emphasise, Commissioners, that in making this recommendation to you I have consulted with the families of Zoe Duncan and with Mr Ben Felton as two of the lived experience witnesses who are impacted by this application.

I recognise that there are many other people impacted by this application who were expecting to hear evidence today which we are now proposing to defer.

Commissioners, we understand the difficulty and the inconvenience of this application and we nonetheless put it before the Commissioners for your consideration.

Can I make one final observation before I conclude this application and that is this: there were many nurses and police officers who responded to the issue that arose and they did so with enormous professionalism and care and concern; it showcased the best of the health system in Tasmania and it is in some way fitting, Commissioners, that that is the final comment that I would like to make to you today, is that the fundamentals of the people, the women and men who operate that system, are so caring and so professional and they demonstrated that in this room today.

Those are the matters that I seek to raise, Commissioners.

PRESIDENT NEAVE: Thank you for the application, Ms Bennett, and we would accept that application and we will adjourn proceedings, thank you.

MS BENNETT: Commissioners, I should be clear: I seek to adjourn those witnesses until mid-August. This hearing I seek to return on Monday where there will be policy witnesses giving evidence as scheduled. The substantive evidence from today is what I seek to adjourn until mid-August. I apologise for any lack of clarity about that. Please the Commissioners.

PRESIDENT NEAVE: Thank you, Ms Bennett, I grant the application.

[Commission hearings adjourned until Monday, 4 July 2022 at 10.00 am]