

**IN THE MATTER OF A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO
THE PERTH CASINO**

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HELEN MARY DULLARD, OAM

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Filed on behalf of:

The Gaming and Wagering Commission of
Western Australia

Prepared by:

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan
Level 41, 108 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Telephone No: +61 8 6382 3000
Reference: 10659-00001
Contact: Paul D Evans/Peter Sadler

I, **HELEN MARY DULLARD, OAM** of **Contains sensitive information**, say
as follows:

1. This statement is provided in response to the witness summons to give evidence, dated 30 April 2021 and issued pursuant to section 9 of the *Royal Commissions Act 1968* (WA), which is directed to me by the Perth Casino Royal Commission (**PCRC**). This statement addresses the matters set out in Schedule 1 to the summons.
2. I am a former member of the Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia (**GWC**).

3. This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. The views I express in this statement are from my own knowledge and recollection, except where I indicate otherwise.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

4. I hold a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Australia. I also hold a Diploma of Arts Studies.
5. In 1983, I was the founding Chief Executive Officer of the Hills Community Support Group (renamed Rise), a non-government organization responsible for services in the Eastern Metropolitan Region to people with disabilities, youth, aged and mental health issues. I held this position for 28 years.
6. From 2000-2015, I was a council member of the Shire of Mundaring, including eight years as President. During that period I also spent eight years as a member of the Local Government Advisory Board.
7. I have had governance positions on the following organisations: the Community Housing Coalition of WA, the Mundaring Arts Centre Board, the Disability Services Commission Round Table, the National Disability Association, the WA Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability, the Council of the Ageing, and the Swan Kalamunda Hospital Carers Advisory Committee.
8. In 2001, I was awarded the WA Centenary Medal for service to the community through the establishment of the Centenary House project. In 2004, I was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for service to the community through a range of organisations, particularly the Hills Community Support Group, and in 2008 I was awarded the John Curtin Medal.

9. I do not hold any formal qualifications specifically in relation to the regulation of casinos or casino gambling.

ROLE ON THE GAMING AND WAGERING COMMISSION

Date and length of appointment

10. I have refreshed my memory from the Government Gazette, and believe I was appointed to the GWC on 14 July 2008 for a term expiring on 30 June 2011.
11. I was contacted by then-Minister Ljiljanna Ravlich. The Minister asked me if I would join the GWC. I told the Minister that I did not know anything about gambling. The Minister was very clear that she was asking me to join the GWC to be an advocate for the Perth Casino to have some practices in place to consider addiction; to show a sense of social responsibility.
12. I do not recall when I retired from the GWC.

Training

13. I do not recall whether I received any training related to the performance of my functions as a GWC member, generally, or in relation to the regulation and oversight of the Perth Casino, specifically.
14. I don't recall being assessed on those things.
15. The Chair at the time was Barry Sargeant. If I had questions about my role or the role of the GWC I would ask Barry. Barry was a very considerate Chair. He was not the type of Chair to show irritation and impatience. I appreciated that, because I knew my knowledge about gaming was limited. I was focused on what I was there for – that is, achieving social outcomes.

16. I was given a big bundle of material when I joined the GWC. I think that included a copy of the *Gaming and Wagering Commission Act 1987*, but I cannot be sure.
17. I visited the Perth Casino in my capacity as GWC member. I do not remember much about those visits, though I do remember being blown away by the extensions that the Perth Casino was doing to the accommodation at the Casino for big spenders and the entourages that come to the casino with the big spenders.
18. I also received training in the use of a Departmental iPad for GWC business, but I left the GWC before the iPad was rolled out.

Areas of specific responsibility

19. I did not have any specific areas of responsibility on the GWC. Nor, to my recollection, did anyone else.

Remuneration and time spent

20. I do not recall what remuneration I received for my service on the GWC.
21. Meetings of the GWC went for a couple of hours. They were in the CBD. I had to travel in from Swan View to attend those meetings, which took about 45 minutes. The briefing packages for meetings were delivered to my house in Swan View. I would normally set aside at least a day to thoroughly read those materials, particularly when the briefs were heavy.
22. Though I am not entirely certain, I think that more than 50% of my time on the GWC was taken up with dealing with the Perth Casino.

POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Information as to powers, responsibilities, obligations and duties

23. Beyond what I set out at paragraphs 13-18 above, I cannot recall what information I was given about the powers, responsibilities and obligations of the GWC, or about my duties and powers as a member of the GWC.

Obstruction

24. To the best of my recollection and during my time on the GWC, the GWC was never obstructed in the exercise of its powers and discharge of its responsibilities and obligations.
25. I was never obstructed in the performance of my duties or the exercise of my powers as a member of the GWC.

My understanding of the Commission's policies and procedures, etc

26. I do not recall whether the GWC had any written policies and procedures to ensure the exercise of powers and discharge of responsibilities and obligations in respect of the regulation and oversight of the Perth Casino.
27. I recall there being discussion about the distance between ATMs and the gaming floor, so that people did not have easy access to cash, but I cannot remember the detail.
28. I also think that issues like junket operations, money laundering, cash and electronic transactions at the Perth Casino and criminals infiltrating casino operations were discussed by members of the GWC, but I cannot remember the detail. I cannot recall whether the GWC had any policies or procedures about those things.

SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT

29. The Department supported the GWC.

30. I thought that officers of the Department knew what they were talking about. They appeared very knowledgeable. They understood the legislation. It was evident in the way the officers presented to the GWC and how they prepared briefing papers. If the Departmental staff had not impressed me I would have been nervous about staying on at the GWC. I have been in that position before, in another context, and I didn't stay.
31. I don't have any recollection of using the Department's technical or secretarial support.
32. The briefing papers I received from the Department were adequate. That is why I needed to read them so thoroughly.
33. I recall Departmental staff reporting to the GWC about spot visits that the staff did at the Perth Casino. I can't recall how often this happened. The spot visits, and the reports back to the GWC, were part of the officer's role when I was on the GWC. I cannot recall any of the detail of those reports, though. Nor can I recall whether the GWC had any particular policy in place about how the Department was to report the GWC.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

34. I cannot recall being provided with any specific information about conflicts of interest and how to deal with or avoid them either before or after my appointment.
35. On the agenda for each meeting there was a conflict of interest item.
36. I had a conflict once, which I declared. I knew someone in the community, though not well, who ran a business. I cannot remember the precise detail of the issue about which I declared a conflict, but I recall it had something to do with that community member having been banned from betting and trying to get around that by using one of his staff to place bets for him. I declared that and I think I sat outside the meeting room of the GWC when that issue was being dealt with.

37. When I joined the GWC I was familiar with conflicts of interest and the processes for dealing with them, from my time on the council of the Shire of Mundaring and my other roles. I knew how to identify when I had a conflict, to declare them, and what steps to take in connection with them.
38. I do not recall whether the GWC or the Department had a conflict of interest policy for departmental staff during my time on the GWC.

Contains sensitive information

HELEN MARY DULLARD, OAM

