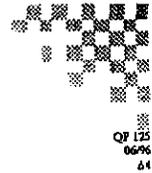




QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



OF 125
0696
64

Statement No.:		Date: 22/10/2003
----------------	--	------------------

Statement of:

Name of witness:	John Matthew DOWNIE	Date of birth:	2/4/1967	Age:	36
Occupation:	Medical Doctor				

Police officer taking statement:

Name of police officer:	A C SMITH	Rank:	PCSC	Reg. No.:	7608
Region/ Command/ Division:	NORTHERN	Station:	CIB		

*STATEMENT OF JOHN MATTHEW DOWNIE TAKEN AT TOWNSVILLE
COMMENCING AT 6.15PM ON 22/10/2003.*

I am a citizen of the United States of America and at the time of this statement being taken I am a visitor to Australia on a 3-month visitors visa.

I arrived in Australia on the 15th of October 2003 and I am due to leave Australia on or before the 2nd of November 2004.

I reside in the city of Chicago and my address is 1350 West Elmdale Avenue Number 1 and my home contact number is 7738565911.

I am board certified in paediatrics with a sub specialty certification in critical care medicine and hold a dual appointment in Paediatric critical care and emergency medicine at the University of Chicago Hospital.

I completed my residency in paediatrics at the University of Rochester in 1995 and I completed my critical care fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in 2000.

I have been practising medicine since 1992 and have extensive experience in emergency situations.

I arrived in Townsville on the morning of Tuesday 21st Day of October 2003 and I had previously arranged a dive trip and I was to check in on the boat at 6.30pm.

J M DOWNIE			This is Page 1 of a Statement comprising 7 Page(s).
			A C SMITH 7608
Witness		Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations	Police Officer

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: John Matthew DOWNIE

I arrived at the vessel, which was moored at the Quarterdeck marina in Townsville at 5.30pm, and because we weren't allowed to get on the vessel until 8pm a few of other passengers and I attended the quarterdeck and had a meal.

I recall that later whilst waiting to go onto the vessel I noticed a couple that I now know to be Gabe and his wife Tina who is now deceased arrive and we all filled out paperwork relating to our trip.

We all got on the boat at around 8pm and we were allocated room, I was allocated room 11.

Once we had checked into our rooms, we set up our dive gear on the back deck and I then went with the other passengers to the galley area and we completed more paperwork.

The boat left Townsville after we boarded and travelled throughout the night to the Yongala wreck site.

We had a meeting of all passengers and staff in the galley and during this meeting I met Gabe and Tina.

I talked to Tina and she had told me that she had previously done diving and we spoke about getting an advanced certification on this trip.

Whilst speaking with Gabe and Tina they both appeared fit and well and they stated that they had only just been married some ten days earlier and that they were on their honeymoon.

I was aware that they were serving champagne in the galley after the meeting but I did not have any and I know that they gave Gabe and Tina a bottle of champagne as a gift on their honeymoon but I am not aware if they opened it at all.

I went bed after the meeting.

I awoke at 6am and had breakfast in the galley at 8am and I saw Tina and Gabe and I said hello.

After breakfast we all attended the rear deck area and a safety briefing and a dive staff member Wade conducted orientation.

In the briefing Wade advised use that the dive a Red scale dive due to the depth, current conditions and also because it was a wreck site.

J M DOWNIE	 Witness	This is Page 2 of a Statement comprising 7 Page(s). A C SMITH / CSC 7608
J M DOWNIE Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations		Police Officer

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: John Matthew DOWNIE

As this was my first dive in a year and I felt a little anxious, the briefing continued and Wade went through the procedures in relation to emergencies and outlined what procedures were to happen if a person got into difficulty.

Wade explained to us how we were to signal if we required assistance, how to signal if we were to go to the surface, he explained where to find the emergency air sources if we were low on air and explained how and where the lines would be set out in association with the vessel and he also drew a picture on a chalk board explaining the process.

I felt that Wade had conducted a comprehensive briefing and I understood him and I believe that the others would have been able to understand him as well.

At around 10am we commenced our dive, we started out in different groups, some divers descended from the vessel and some were transported out away from the vessel by inflatable.

I was in the second group that was transported by inflatable and in the group was my dive buddy Michael, Gabe and Tina, Adriana and Andy and their daughters Jackie and Jamie.

We were dropped off about 10 metres from the vessel.

I had on a full body wet suit with open feet and I had a set of socks and fins on. I also had a BC on, regulator, a single tank that carried 3100 PSI of air. I had a half facemask and a 6-kilogram weight belt and also I had a wrist dive computer.

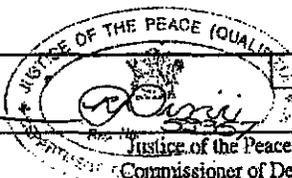
I entered the water with Michael and completed my dive and during the dive I did not see Tina or Gabe.

When I surfaced with Michael we were collected in a dinghy by staff member Craig and we were dropped back to the vessel.

As soon as I have got onto the back deck and started to take my gear off I noticed that a number of crew were running around the vessel and were pulling on dive gear.

I immediately suspected that there was a problem but no one seemed to know what was going on.

A short time later I saw Gabe being brought back in a inflatable alone and when Gabe came on board he told me that Tina had gotten into trouble and had panicked and they had become separated.

J M DOWNIE			This is Page 3 of a Statement comprising 7 Page(s). A C SMITH PCSC 7608
Witness		Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations	Police Officer

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: John Matthew DOWNIE

I sat Gabe down and he appeared in panic and I got him a drink of water and a short time later we received word that they had found Tina and at this point I assumed that she was okay.

Someone came and told me that they needed medical assistance for Tina and an inflatable driven by Craig came to the rear of the vessel and as I was going down the steps I asked Gabe if Tina had any medical conditions and Gabe told me that she did not.

I asked Craig what was happening and Craig told me that they were doing CPR on Tina.

I immediately asked Craig what medical facilities and equipment were available to me and he advised me that there were no medications and no defibrillator on board or intubation equipment.

Craig has taken me to another dive boat that was moored nearby and on my arrival I observed that UZI and Wade were performing CPR/EAR on Tina who was located on the back deck of that vessel.

I attended to her and I conducted an examination and immediately established that she had no pulse and that her eye were fixed and dilated with no spontaneous respiration.

When I arrived the staff were providing external breathing assistance by bagging Tina and I put in an oral airway, which assists in maintaining an open airway.

The oral airway consists of a piece of curved plastic and is put in place by means of jaw thrust.

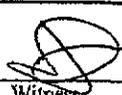
After doing this I hooked the oxygen tubing up to the bag valve mask so that I could bleed more oxygen into Tina with assisted ventilation.

I directed a crewmember to go back to our boat and attend my room and grab my epipen, which is a measured dose of epinephrine contained in a self-regulating delivery device.

I had this due to having serious food allergies and being subject to anaphylactic shock.

Whilst this crewmember did this I continued to assist with CPR/EAR and Tina was still in arrested state.

I did not know how long Tina had been in arrest prior to my arrival and I was not aware how long she had been submerged and I had no other equipment that would have assisted me in advanced life support.

J M DOWNIE	 Witness		This is Page 4 of a Statement comprising 7 Page(s).
		A C SMITH PCSC 7608	
		DEPARTMENT OF Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations	Police Officer

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: John Matthew DOWNIE

When the crewmember has returned with my epipen I have attempted to open it to expose the needle so that I could deliver a dose into Tina's external jugular vein to assist in resuscitation.

Due to the spring mechanism being in place the medication was discharged into the air before I was able to place the needle into Tina. The device is not designed to be utilised in this manner and could not be used to assist Tina.

At this point I said I can't do anything more without further equipment such as IV access and a person said to me that there was such equipment on our vessel that we had come out onto the reef on.

I directed a crewmember to go urgently to get this equipment.

When the crewmember returned I set up an IV of 1 litre of normal saline and placed a 16-gauge Iv catheter into Tina's right hand side external jugular vein. There was good blood return and IV flow and at the time of placing this IV catheter in Tina had no other markings or injuries to her neck area on both sides.

I then gave her a bolus of 500ml of normal saline and 2 doses of epinephrine.

There was no change in her condition and we continued to provide external CPR/EAR support.

Tina had taken in the litre of normal saline and there was no change so I gave her another dose of epinephrine and there was still no change.

At this time I attempted needle decompression, which consists of percutaneous placement of a needle into the chest cavity to drain any potential pneumothorax.

I completed this procedure on both sides of Tina's chest with no change in her condition and no recovery of any air.

At this stage I noticed that the IV I had put in was infiltrated and a haematoma had formed so I clamped the IV and removed and placed a new IV line in the other side of the neck.

I had a crewmember place compression on the right hand side of the neck where the IV line had been to control any bleeding.

J M DOWNIE		Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Proc. Commissioner of Declarations	This is Page 5 of a Statement comprising 7 Page(s). A C SMITH POC 7608
Witness			Police Officer

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: John Matthew DOWNIE

At this point I had a conversation with a doctor via radio and I fully explained to the doctor who I was and what procedures I had completed and this person advised me to continue CPR/EAR for another 5 minutes.

In the next 5 minutes I gave Tina another 2 doses of epinephrine and I also located 2 doses of lidocaine and administered these with 500cc of normal saline and there was still no change in Tina's condition. After this there was no further IV resuscitation drugs available on the vessel as I had used them all in my attempts to assist Tina.

Whilst I was waiting I heard someone here comes the Doctor and a male person approached me and told me that he was a doctor and had just finished his residency in emergency medicine in Albany in New York.

I fully discussed all of my actions and he agreed that all had been that could be done and that ~~after 41 minutes of resuscitation attempts that no further assistance could be provided and we~~ decided to stop CPR/EAR.

After Tina was declared dead I went back to our boat and I told Gabe that Tina had died and that we had tried everything that we could but we were unable to revive her.

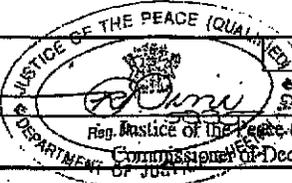
Gabe wanted to see Tina so I arranged for him to be taken to the other vessel and when we arrived Tina was already in a body bag on the back deck and I noticed that the left side IV line had been removed in my absence and that there was bleeding at the site.

Later I had a conversation with Gabe and he told me that whilst they were diving he had looked over towards Tina and had observed that she appeared agitated and had a strange look on her face.

Gabe said that he behaviour was erratic and panicked and that she had pulled his mask and regulator off whilst thrashing about.

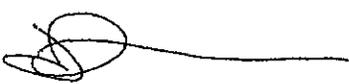
I immediately suspected that her behaviour could be a result of hypoxia, which is a lack of oxygen, which causes such behaviour even after a short time.

I believed that all efforts were made to revive Tina given the circumstances of the incident and the equipment available.

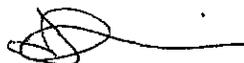
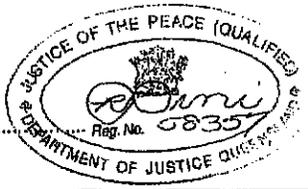
J M DOWNIE			This is Page 6 of a Statement comprising 7 Page(s). A C SMITH PCSC 7608
Witness		Reg. Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations	Police Officer

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: John Matthew DOWNIE

I would strongly suggest that consideration be given by the diving industry to have in place on commercial diving vessels a automated defibrillator and advanced resuscitation supplies.



Oaths Act Declaration

JOHN MATTHEW DOWNIE  OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)	
I, JOHN JOHN MATTHEW DOWNIE solemnly and sincerely declare that:	
(1)	This written statement by me dated 22/10/2003 and contained in pages numbered 1 to 7 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
(2)	I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.
and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867	
 John Matthew DOWNIE Signature	
Taken and declared before me at TOWNSVILLE this 22nd day of October 2003	
Witness	 Justice of the Peace / Commissioner of Declarations Other (Please State)
	

J M DOWNIE 		This is Page 7 of a Statement comprising 7 Page(s). A C SMITH EC80 7608
Witness	Reg. Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations	Police Officer