

Dr Clive Fraser, psychiatrist

Chronology of events – Dr Karen Mahlo

15 December 2004

Dr Karen Mahlo commences duties as the Executive Director of Medical Services, Sunshine Coast based at the Nambour Hospital.

February 2006

Dr Mahlo first attends Mr Hehir's business for financial advice and estate planning.

8 September 2006

Dr Mahlo begins an intimate relationship with Mr Hehir.

5 October 2006

Dr Mahlo is stood down from her position at the Nambour Hospital.

14 November 2006

Dr Mahlo signs a will prepared by Mr Hehir in which Mr Hehir is the executor and trustee and also the principal beneficiary of Dr Mahlo's considerable estate.

25 November 2006

Mr Hehir leaves his wife and two children and moves into Dr Mahlo's house in Moffat Beach.

17 January 2007

Dr Mahlo first attends psychiatrist Dr Clive Fraser.

2 April 2007

At a meeting of medical staff at the Nambour Hospital, the staff moved an overwhelming vote of confidence in support of Dr Mahlo.

18 April 2007

Dr Mahlo advises Dr Fraser that 2 weeks previously she took tablets and drank alcohol and made a superficial cut to her left ankle (the cut did not require suturing).

22 May 2007

Dr Mahlo consumes alcohol and makes a superficial cut to her right wrist (the cut did not require suturing).

July 2007

Dr Mahlo receives further details of complaints made by staff at the Sunshine Coast Health Service.

14 – 28 September 2007

After Dr Mahlo cuts off her long hair and reports recent heavy drinking, Dr Fraser arranges a voluntary 2-week admission to the Buderim Private Hospital.

December 2007 – January 2008

Dr Mahlo obtains temporary employment at the Redcliffe Hospital.

2 April 2008

Dr Mahlo ends her relationship with Mr Hehir. Mr Hehir who moves out of Dr Mahlo's house and rents a unit at Cotton Tree.

10 April 2008

Dr Mahlo attends Dr Fraser.

11 April 2008

Dr Fraser was away on leave when Dr Mahlo consumed alcohol and took an overdose of medication and was taken by ambulance to the Caloundra Hospital.

12 April 2008

Dr Mahlo is transferred from Caloundra Hospital to the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

14 – 19 April 2008

Dr Mahlo has a voluntary admission to the New Farm Clinic in Brisbane.

8 May 2008

Dr Mahlo attends Dr Fraser and advises that she is relieved to have ended her relationship with Mr Hehir.

14 May 2008

Dr Mahlo is accompanied by her father when she attends Dr Fraser.

21 May 2008

Dr Mahlo attends Dr Fraser and reports that her mood has improved ("very positive") and over the past "few days" she has not been drinking.

26 May 2008

Dr Mahlo attends Dr Ken Fredericks in relation to her capacity to return to work.

27 May 2008

Dr Mahlo contacts Dr Fraser's rooms to postpone her next appointment. Dr Fraser's secretary documents that Dr Mahlo sounded "very positive and cheerful."

28 May 2008 (Wednesday) 1.05 pm

Dr Fraser receives a phone call from Const Jerry Williams of the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Caloundra to advise that Dr Mahlo was deceased.

Dr Fraser offered to provide a written statement but was told that the police would advise whether a formal written statement was required.

28 May 2008 (Wednesday) 3.10 pm

Dr Fraser's receptionist upon hearing of Dr Mahlo's death writes a note:

"[patient] rang on 27/5/08 to postpone her 29/5/08 appt to 3/6/08 "going to a conference". Talked about moving the 3/6/08 1.00 p.m. time slot to an earlier time in order for her to get to work as she planned to return to work on Monday 2/6/08.

I thanked her for the loan of gardening books (on desk), discussed various plants and Karen made some more suggestions about some plants. Offered to take photos of the plant and some cuttings to bring in to me at her next appt on 3/6/08.

Sounded very positive and cheerful. Advised that the meeting with the Medical Board doctor went very well."

This was the last contact Dr Mahlo had with Dr Fraser's rooms prior to her death that night.

6 June 2008

Dr Fraser attends Dr Mahlo's funeral in Caloundra and observes the unusual and inconsistent behaviour of Mr Hehir. Mr Hehir appeared highly emotional and distressed before reading his statement. He then appeared composed whilst reading his statement after which he appeared to become highly distressed and had to be assisted to his seat. There were approximately 200 mourners at the funeral who witnessed this unusual behaviour.

Dr Fraser forms the impression that Mr Hehir's behaviour before and after he read his statement was disingenuous and contrived.

17 June 2008

Dr Fraser is contacted by Margaret McNamara of Biggs and Biggs Solicitors who advised that Mr Hehir was a major beneficiary of Dr Mahlo's estate and that according to the will he had prepared as Dr Mahlo's financial adviser, Mr Hehir was to inherit Dr Mahlo's Moffatt Beach home which was valued at \$1.5 M.

During the phone conversation, Ms McNamara told Dr Fraser that she formed the impression that Dr Mahlo had been murdered by Mr Hehir. Dr Fraser suggested that Ms McNamara notify the police of her concerns.

Following the phone call with Ms McNamara, Dr Fraser decides to contact the police to alert the police to his concerns. Dr Fraser subsequently made four phone calls to the Caloundra Police Station.

Phone call #1: Dr Fraser was advised that Const Jerry Williams was not on shift. Dr Fraser was given a date to again ring and attempt to speak with Const Williams.

Phone call #2: Dr Fraser called on the allotted date but was advised that Const Williams was rostered on night duty and was unavailable. Dr Fraser was given another date to ring again.

Phone call #3: Dr Fraser was again advised that Const Williams was not available. Dr Fraser was advised to ring again at 1.00 pm on 1 July 2008.

1 July 2008 (Tuesday)

Phone call #4: Dr Fraser speaks with Const Williams and provides a comprehensive summary of Dr Mahlo's history and advised Const Williams of Ms McNamara's impression that there was "foul play" in relation to Dr Mahlo's death. Dr Fraser again offers to provide a written statement to the police.

Dr Fraser writes an 11-page letter (Item 1) to the Const Williams to ensure that the communication between himself and the police was recorded in written form. The correspondence sent to Const Williams summarized the history that Dr Fraser had with Dr Karen Mahlo.

4 July 2008 (Friday)

A notice appeared in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* on behalf of Mr Hehir seeking a grant of probate over Dr Karen Mahlo's estate.

24 October 2008

The letter Dr Fraser wrote to Const Williams dated 1 July 2008 is sworn as an affidavit and provided to the police.

21 January 2009

Dr Fraser receives a letter from Ms Margaret McNamara who was now employed by Thynne and Macartney Solicitors requesting an advice as to Dr Mahlo's testamentary capacity on or about 16 May 2008.

February 2009

Dr Fraser receives a copy of the autopsy report. On the basis of the autopsy report, Dr Fraser forms the impression that Dr Mahlo's wounds were not self-inflicted.

9 February 2009

Dr Fraser has a conversation with "Dr G," a semi-retired ex-government medical officer. Dr G advised that in June 2008, he had been asked by staff at Gregson and Weight Funeral Directors Caloundra to examine a deceased woman with a stab wound to the chest. The Funeral Director staff told "Dr G" that they had formed the impression that the deceased woman (Dr Karen Mahlo) had been murdered.

"Dr G" told Dr Fraser that from his examination of the body, he formed the impression that prior to her death by stabbing, the woman had struggled with an assailant.

10 March 2009

After repeated unsuccessful attempts to have Const Williams respond to his phone calls and messages, Dr Fraser again writes to Const Williams (Item 2).

In the correspondence to Const Williams, Dr Fraser advised that based on the autopsy report, he was "very uncomfortable about accepting that Dr Mahlo's central chest stab wounds were 'self-inflicted'."

29 July 2010

Dr Fraser receives correspondence from Det Sen Const Jodie Allan advising that she had been tasked with investigating the death of Dr Mahlo. Thereafter, Dr Fraser had further telephone communication with Det Sen Const Allan.

15 September 2010

Dr Fraser provides further written documentation to Det Sen Const Allan. (Item 3).

2 August 2011

Dr Fraser receives correspondence from solicitor Margaret McNamara advising that the hearing into the contested will of Dr Mahlo was set down to commence on 8 August 2011. Ms McNamara requested that Dr Fraser be available to give oral evidence.

Dr Fraser was not called to give evidence during the hearing of the contested will in the Supreme Court.

8 – 10 August 2011

During the Supreme Court hearing, in his closing address counsel representing Mr Hehir said that after police drove him back to Dr Mahlo's place on the morning of 28 May 2008, Mr Hehir did not re-enter the house.

19 August 2011

The Supreme Court held that while Dr Mahlo had clearly intended to make and had signed a "new will" in which Mr Hehir was not a beneficiary, Dr Mahlo either had not done so prior to her death or the "new will" had been destroyed and therefore could not be produced.

5 December 2013

The Coronial Inquest into the death of Dr Karen Mahlo commences.

11 February 2014

Dr Fraser is provided with a QPS document 'Precis of Statement' (Item 4) which had already been filed in the Coroners Court. The 'Precis of Statement' was purported to contain a summary of the conversation Dr Fraser had with Const Williams on 28 May 2008.

The 'Precis of Statement' did not accurately summarize the phone conversation Dr Fraser had with Const Williams on 28 May 2008.

At 8.32 pm on 11 February 2014, Dr Fraser E-mails his lawyers to advise that the 'Precis of Statement' of his conversation with Const Williams was mostly inaccurate.

11 February 2014 (continued)

Dr Fraser highlights and annotates the statements incorrectly attributed to him in the 'Precis of Statement' (Item 5) in preparation for a conference with his lawyers prior to giving his evidence at the Coronial Inquest the following day.

12 February 2014

Dr Fraser gave verbal evidence under oath at the Coronial Inquest but was denied an opportunity to refer to inaccuracies in the 'Precis of Statement'.

Dr Fraser was advised by his lawyer not to claim that he had been 'verballed' by the police officer and not to explain that the 'Precis of Statement' of his conversation with Const Williams was mostly inaccurate.

13 June 2014

The Coroner publishes the findings that "Dr Mahlo died sometime between 3:06 and 5:00 am on 28 May 2008" and that there was "nothing in the autopsy findings that precluded the possibility of Dr Mahlo's wounds being self-inflicted."