

Family name **HEHIR**
 Given names **JOHN MICHAEL**
 Street address
 Suburb/Town State Postcode
 Country
 Occupation
 Relationship to deceased
 Date of birth
 Phone: Home Work Mobile
 Email address
 Notebook issued to
 Notebook no.
 Notebook pages to

Provide a brief statement of witness
 John Michael HEHIR states:-

- 1 I am a separated man residing at . The unit complex is called
- 2 I know Karen Lee MAHLO.
- 3 I first met Karen through my business which is a financial advising business, which is called Financial Advisers Australia. This business situated at suite 3 48-50 Sugar Road, Maroochydore. My ex-wife and I are the owner of the business. Karen came to the business as a Queensland Health employee to do her salary packaging. I know that Karen was doing transactions with another consultant named Michael BUTLER. All the documentation regarding her salary packaging I would have signed off on it, but didn't meet her personally. This was in early 2005 that Karen began to come to the business.
- 4 I first met Karen as I had to ring her as part of my work. This would have been around February 2006. Later this week Karen came into the office and this is when I first met her face to face. Over some time Karen and I had a lot of business dealings with each other. I was advising her on her financial situation and organizing her assets and insurances.
- 5 In about July 2006 whilst I was advising Karen financially I became aware that she had suffered from depression. I remember that another employee Cathy FRAZER was organizing all of Karen's insurances and again I signed off on it. Cathy made me aware that Karen was suffering from depression.
- 6 On 5th September, 2006 I rang Karen for her birthday to wish her a happy birthday. I did this to very important clients of our business. The business also bought Karen a gift voucher to a beautician's as a thank you due to the fact she was such a good and important client to us. On this day Karen asked me out for dinner and I've told her that I was married. I was still receptive but never rang her back and never took her up on this offer.
- 7 On Friday morning after this Karen rang the office and made an appointment with me at 5:30pm at the office. Karen came into the office at 5:30pm, this is after all the staff had gone home. Karen had one intension with this meet and that was to become intimate. I agreed and Karen and I became intimate on this occasion.
- 8 After this I continued to see Karen and I was still married at this stage.

9 On 3rd October 2006 Karen rang me at work to tell me that she had been stood down from work on full paid leave, pending a physic assessment. At this time Karen was employed by Queensland Health in the position of Executive Director of Medical Services. This meant that Karen is the head doctor at the Nambour Hospital.

10 Kevin HEGGARTY was the District Manager of CEO of the Nambour Hospital and he was the one that told Karen that she was being stood down. Kevin wouldn't elaborate why she was being stood down just sent her for a physic assessment. Karen had to go and see a physic and also had to go before the health board. Karen wanted answers as to why this was happening but Kevin HEGGARTY wouldn't tell her.

11 On 22nd or 23rd November 2006 I told me wife, Jenny, what was going on between myself and Karen. On 25th November 2006 I moved out of the family home and moved into with Karen at 23A William Street, Moffatt Beach.

12 On 16th January 2008 Karen had been back at work for about 2 days. I remember on this day when I was walking out the door and I sensed that something was wrong. I could tell that Karen wasn't getting ready as quickly as she normally does to go to work. I left and went to work leaving Karen at home. At about 8:30-9am I began to ring Karen on her mobile and I wasn't getting any answers. I then rang Karen's work number and was advised that she had arrived at work as yet. I continued to try the mobile and the home number and I eventually got Karen at home on the phone. Karen was super depressed at this time and I came straight home, and I'm sure it would have been around lunch time. When I got home I rang Anna and she also came over. Karen told both myself and Anna that she wanted to kill herself on this day but she didn't have any way in which to do it. On this day Karen rang another doctor friend Steve Phillips and he spoke to her and eventually got a Physiologist involved.

13 On 9th February 2008 both Karen and I were having a meeting with Queensland Health so that Karen could have the information that forced them to stand her down revealed. Queensland Health cancelled this meeting. However Queensland Health sent a letter to Karen advising her that she had been suspended. I remember that this letter arrived at the home at about 3pm by hospital courier.

14 On Monday 12th February 2008 a meeting was organized with Queensland Health to discuss why Karen had been suspended. On this day Karen went head to head in the meeting with Kevin HEGGARTY. Karen continued to be suspended.

15 Eventually they didn't have enough to dismiss Karen so they found her another job at Redcliffe Hospital as the Deputy Director of Medical Services. Redcliffe Hospital really didn't need such a position filled however this was Queensland Health's way of fixing a problem. I know that Karen isn't even on Redcliffe Hospital payroll instead she's on the regional payroll. I know this decision was made by Terry MEEHAM and he is the regional manager above Kevin HEGGARTY.

16 This caused Karen major issues and she became more and more depressed due to this decision. Karen felt like she was being undermined and I remember that she started back at work at Redcliffe Hospital on 16 December 2007 and continued to work there. I know that during Karen's time at Redcliffe Hospital she wasn't happy and was constantly taking sick days.

17 I continued to live with Karen up until 2nd April 2008. At this time Karen was drinking too much alcohol and she was smoking too many cigarettes. Karen wasn't showing any consideration to anybody including her two children. I remember during this time Karen bought peanut butter into the house and I have a really strong allergy to peanuts, but that didn't worry her. It just was getting to the point that everything was all about Karen.

18 A month prior to this Karen and I had discussed me moving out of the home. On 1st April 2008 Karen and I had an argument about her daughter Anna. Anna was working at my business and on April Fools Day we played a joke on her. At the time Karen thought this joke was funny.

19 During my relationship with Karen I know of two other times where Karen has tried to commit suicide. I remember on one occasion Anna came home and found Karen with cuts up her arm and dripping blood into a bucket. I remember another time when I was building the deck at Karen's place.

20 On this night we had Karen's 2 children over and my 3 children over and later in the night Karen had had way too much to drink. I told her that she was making a fool of herself and her daughter Anna also said that she was being laughed at not with.

21 About 2am in the morning Karen locked herself in the spar bath room. I continued to come back to this room every 5 minutes. Eventually I found the bathroom door was left open and Karen was slipping down into the water. I could see that the water was red. I then grabbed Karen out of the water and saw that she had cut her leg. I took Karen downstairs and bandaged up the wound to her leg. Karen then improved and eventually I put her to bed.

22 I also remember another day I came home from work I saw hair all over the house. I then went upstairs to the bedroom and found Karen drunk in bed. I saw that Karen had cut all her hair off. The following day I contacted Karen's Psychiatrist and he made the decision to admit her to hospital. Karen's Psychiatrist is Dr Clive FRAZER. I know that Karen has been seeing a Psychiatrist for about 15 years. After this incident I talked Karen into going to hospital, which she agreed. Karen was then admitted to Buderim Private Hospital and stayed there for 2 weeks and stayed off the alcohol. Karen's health really improved with her staying off the alcohol.

23 About 2 weeks after getting out of hospital we went out for dinner and Karen had a glass of wine. She was well behaved.

24 I moved out of the home on 2nd April 2008. I moved out but was back at Karen's house almost every night. I had to move out to get some sanity because Karen's behavior was becoming very unbearable. Karen told me that she was going to stop smoking and stop drinking, but she continued to do both and very heavily.

25 On 12th April 2008 in the middle of the night I got a phone call from Karen asking me to look after the dogs and said that there was nothing that I could do because she had taken all the tablets. I've raced over to the house and I continued to talk to her on the phone as I was driving. I remember that while I was driving Karen drifted off and stopped talking.

26 I then rang triple 0 and asked them to attend. I then arrived at the house and found Karen on her bed and she talked to me. A short time later the ambulance arrived and they began to treat Karen. I remember that Karen was taken Caloundra Hospital and then airlifted to the Royal Brisbane Hospital where she remained in intensive care for a couple of days. I know that they kept Karen in a coma and she came out of it on the Sunday morning.

27 Karen was then transferred to The New Farm Clinic, which is a rehabilitation centre for people with depression. This is a mental institution for people with depression, which is what Karen had. Karen only stayed in the centre for a couple of days and kicked herself out but returned. This centre couldn't keep her there and she continued to break the rules.

28 On the Friday 18th April 2008 after this we had a family meeting. This meeting was also with her treating Psychiatrist Kanchana. Karen decided that she wasn't going to stay in the centre any long that she wanted to come home. So Karen came home this week-end and all she did this entire week-end was drink alcohol.

29 During this time Karen was in the center she was very angry with me because she blamed me for her being in the centre.

- 30 On 27th May 2008 Karen and I had an hour long conversation on the phone. I know during this conversation was around lunch time. Karen rang to tell me how well she'd done at her physic assessment earlier in the day. Karen and I then had a disagreement about the way she was behaving and we spoke about lots of other issues and we were digging up dirt from a long way back and I know I really hurt her by telling her what I thought about her behavior and the way she treated people. Karen never wanted to hang up the phone and the conversation just got nasty. Karen said some nasty stuff and I said some nasty stuff.
- 31 At about 5:30pm a work colleague of mine Veronica dropped me over to Karen's house so that I could collect my motor bike and some other stuff. I needed for Karen to sign over the bike to me and I believed that she had already been to Queensland Transported and organized all the forms during the day. I stayed for about an hour and Karen and I talked. I apologized to Karen for speaking to her the way I did earlier in the day. Karen then started to have a go at me saying how I made her feel bad. Karen and I continued to banter with each other about what was previously said during the conversation of the day.
- 32 I remember Karen said to me during this conversation that she didn't want to go back to work and that she didn't want to be here. Karen at this time was drinking Gin. Karen then showed me a letter from Terry MEEHAM and Kevin HEGGARTY. These letters were of her being suspended. I worked through these letters with Karen and when I left I asked if she was going to be good and she said she was.
- 33 I left Karen's around 6:30pm and went back to my office where I did some work. I eventually went home to my unit at about midnight and went to sleep.
- 34 About 4:30am I got up out of bed to go to the toilet. At this time I checked my mobile phone and saw that I had a missed call from Karen's home. I've then tried to ring Karen back on both the landline and also the mobile phone.
- 35 I started to ring Karen at 4:33am and continued to ring as I was worried about her. I left messages on the home phone answering machine asking Karen to pick up the phone and talk to me. I kept ringing the home phone cause this is the one that Karen would hear the best and I was trying to annoy her to get her to pick up the phone and talk to me. I got dressed and began to drive to Karen's house. Whilst I was driving there I rang triple 0 and asked for an ambulance
- 36 I continued to drive to Karen's house and I continued to ring her on the home phone and leaving messages telling her the ambulance were on there way.
- 37 I arrived at Karen's house at about 5am. When I arrived I saw that the front door was wide open. There were no lights on in the house downstairs. I then went up the stairs to Karen's bedroom. I remember seeing the bedside light was on.
- 38 I stood at the doorway to the bedroom. At this location the bed is in the middle of the room, with the foot of the bed facing the doorway. I saw that Karen was lying on the bed on the right hand side as I was looking at the bed. I walked around the right hand side of the bed and touched Karen on the arm. I could feel that she was cold. I then went downstairs and rang triple 0 again.
- 39 The operator has made me go back up to the bedroom and I did. The operator asked me to put my face against hers to see if she was breathing. I did this and told him that she wasn't. I was then asked by the operator to return to the bedroom to do CPR. But I explained to him that I couldn't do CPR because she had a knife in her chest.
- 40 I continued to walk around the bottom section of the house until the ambulance arrived. I continued to talk to the operator until the Ambulance arrived.
- 41 When the ambulance arrived I told them where to go and showed them to the bedroom. I then walked up with the ambulance officers and walked around the left hand side of the bed. I saw that Karen was lying on her back and that she had a knife sticking out of her stomach. When the ambulance arrived I turned on every light in the house to brighten it up.

42 I don't remember what Karen was wearing when I found her in bed. I remember the ambulance operator asked me to touch her chest to see if she was breathing. I then went into the bedroom and I had to push up a shirt or something on her and I remember seeing nothing but the colour red and her chest wasn't moving, so she wasn't breathing.

43 A short time later the police arrived and I gave them as much information as they needed.

44 Since I've known Karen she has been dealing with depression and constantly talks of suicide. Karen even said to me when she was in the rehab center that next time she committed suicide no-one would be able to save her.

45 I feel that Karen's health has deteriorated with the situation with work and her being stood down. I have spoke to some of Karen's doctor friends and they have told me that Karen has suffered from depression of years and particularly when a relationship ends.

46 I believe that me turning up to collect my motor bike and my other belongings was a final move that I was moving out completely from Karen's house and not returning. During my time with Karen I have noticed that she has big highs and big lows. She seems to have the lows only when she's with me and at some stage she has even said to me that she has these lows when I'm around so that she can get my sympathy.

47 When I left Karen in the afternoon of 27th May 2008 she was drinking but she didn't seem to be drunk from the alcohol. Karen seemed to be in good spirits, she even gave me a kiss and a cuddle when I left.

48 The majority time I have lived with Karen I have had concerns that she would take her own life and I believe this is what she has finally done.

J.M. HEHIR