

**Submission
No 3**

**INQUIRY INTO COVID-19 CLASSIFICATION OF THE
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Name: Mr David Heffernan

Date Received: 18 November 2022

To Portfolio Committee No.2 - Health
From David Heffernan
Date 17 November 2022
Subject **Inquiry into the COVID-19 classification of the Minister for Health**

Statement of David Heffernan

I, David Heffernan, President NSW Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (**Guild**), state as follows:

- 1 This statement sets out my recollection of events at the National Party Dinner Function held at NSW Parliament House on 22 June 2021 (**Event**).
- 2 I was invited to attend the Event on behalf of the Guild. I arrived at the Event with my colleague, Richard Walsh, who is a Branch Committee Member of the NSW Branch of Guild.
- 3 Early in the evening, when guests were mingling before dinner, I recall having a brief conversation with the Hon Adam Marshall MP, then the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, together with Mr Walsh.
- 4 Sometime after that, the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health, arrived at the Event. I approached Minister Hazzard and we had a conversation. I would estimate that that conversation lasted about a minute. Minister Marshall was not a part of this conversation. Minister Hazzard then excused himself from our conversation and addressed the attendees of the Event with a short speech from the front of the room.
- 5 Following Minister Hazzard's speech, I sat down for dinner with other Event attendees. I had no further interaction with Minister Hazzard, and my recollection is that he left the function not long after completing his speech.
- 6 I also cannot recall having any further interaction with Minister Marshall. Nor do I recall seeing Minister Hazzard and Minister Marshall talking directly during the evening.
- 7 On the morning two days after the Event , I became aware through a news broadcast and subsequent phone calls with colleagues that Minister Marshall had contracted COVID-19.
- 8 Later that day I was informed by NSW Health that I was a close contact and was required to isolate for 14 days, and undertake PCR testing, which I did.
- 9 I am not aware of any attendee contracting COVID-19 from the Event.

David Heffernan
