Michelle Maitland on her 19th Birthday

Michelle died at Gymnastics Townsville only six months later

JUSTICE FOR MICHELLE MAITLAND

Prepared for: Rob Messenger MP

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Introduction

This document has been prepared with the intention of being proactive in furthering the investigation into the death of Michelle Maitland, who was killed by a massive head injury at Gymnastics Townsville on 18th June 2009.

The anticipated outcomes set out in this proposal can be delineated into several main areas.

• Provide key evidence and facts for the Northern Coroner, Kevin Priestly, to enable his ongoing investigation to result in an Inquest for Negligence by Gymnastics Townsville, causing Michelle Maitland's death.

- Magistrate Ross Mack be provided with some facts regarding the false and misleading information concocted by Gymnastics Townsville, but not clarified by WH&SQ, at the trial.
- The management of Gymnastics Townsville be required to acknowledge their responsibility for this catastrophic safety failure and lack of due-diligence, as they are not willing to do so or improve their facilities voluntarily.
- Legislation be introduced to ensure that safety standards are elevated to a level where parents and participants are assured that facilities provided are of an acceptable standard and that management's Duty-of-Care is taken seriously.
- Gymnastics Australia and sporting insurance companies be aware of the need to improve sub-standard gymnastics facilities that have areas of uncovered concrete floor. Death is the worst outcome in these facilities but many more, easily prevented, serious and minor accidents occur than is reasonable in children' and teenagers' gymnastics centres.
- The minimal investigation and case presentation by WH&S be highlighted.
- This report be available to media, in order to release the Maitland family, by public acknowledgement, from the ongoing character assessment currently being debated across the globe and encourage parents and participants to insist of good facilities.
- To hasten closure for the Maitland family whose grief and loss of Michelle has been further compounded by the lack of essential evidence not presented, or the refutation of false and misleading information disseminated by Gymnastics Townsville, at the Qld Workplace Health & Safety prosecution.

Key Individuals

Michelle Maitland Sustained massive skull fractures whilst participating in a recreational class at Gymnastics Townsville – June 18 2009.

Ann Maitland Michelle's mother. Involved with Elite gymnastics in the UK, completed the Gym Australia Level 1 coaching course. Recreational coach at Gym Tsv throughout 2001 and 2002.

Daren Wolfe Treasurer and senior coach at Gymnastics Townsville. MAG judge.

Robert Crane killed.

Level 1 Coach in charge of the class when Michelle was

Ken Warren

WH&SQ Investigating Officer.

Dean Coggins

WH&SQ Investigation Review Solicitor.

Gary Newmann

WH&SQ Regional Director.

Timeline

May 2002 Michelle Maitland, despite exceptional talent acknowledged by all coaches, ceases any gymnastics training – age 12. This is relevant to her death only as explanation that she was <u>not</u> a highly trained gymnast or aware of many safety aspects of the sport and also that her body shape, weight and centre-of-gravity were vastly different at the time of her death than when she ceased training as a pre-pubescent child.

April 2009 Michelle Maitland commences an adults' recreational class – age 19. Class advertised as non-competitive, for fun & fitness, with qualified coach to assist with technique and safety. Club membership card completion was not requested from and safety pamphlet not given to the new member, therefore no current next-of-kin details or medical history requested or recorded.

June 18 2009 Michelle Maitland dies after head strikes exposed concrete floor, during normal class activities approved by coach and management. After technique instruction from Robert Crane, Michelle's next & final somersault was not performed correctly and she was propelled onto an area of concrete usually covered by safety matting. Autopsy reports cause of death as "head injury/gymnastics accident".

June 2009 Wayne Hill, President of Gymnastics Queensland, initially agrees to assist in ensuring that all gymnastics centres get their concrete floor areas suitable covered but later reneges on that commitment, claiming that it would cost too much and some gyms would have to close. He then issues a media statement claiming that the organisation will cooperate fully with WH&SQ. This does not appear to have occurred either, as subsequent events

confirm and he has since altered his account of initial discussions. The ranks were closing.

July 2009-Sept 2010 Numerous attempts are made by Ann Maitland to discuss the case with WH&SQ. All information she could provide is rebuffed and declined by all WH&SQ personnel. WH&SQ assured Ann Maitland that they had all information necessary for a successful prosecution and only take cases to court when confident of winning.

February 3 2010 Rob Messenger MP, Member for Burnett, sent letter to Hon. Cameron Dick MP as Minister for Industrial Relations, regarding concerns about inadequacies in the WH&SQ investigation and to propose that all gymnastics facilities have their safety standards reviewed and raised to a higher level in some centres, citing claims of insufficient funds are insupportable when lives are at stake. This correspondence received no response from Attorney-General Dick.

September 8-9 2010 WH&SQ prosecution against Gymnastics Townville trial in the Townsville Industrial Magistrate Court.

October 1 2010 Magistrate Ross Mack announced Guilty judgement against Gymmastics Townsville.

November 15 2010 Sentencing to be announced.

Background

Gymnastics had been Michelle Maitland's overriding passion since early childhood. She had exceptional natural talent for it and intended to spend her young life in competition training. After retirement from her career as a competitive gymnast, coaching and/or operating her own gymnasium, were her goals and ambition for adult life.

Michelle successfully trained and competed, for 1½ years, under an ex-olympian and well know producer of champions, at an Elite facility, during the family's stay in the UK between late 1998 and mid-2000

Upon the family's return to Australia in mid-2000, such facilities were unavailable at Gymnastics Townsville and the family did not have the finances required for the alternative, superior Heatley Gymnastics, which has since closed. Michelle was subjected

to poor coaching and various unnecessary injuries before she stopped all training mid-2002, age 12. One reasons for her temporary decline during her teenage years was that she had been barred from competitive training at Gymnastics Townsville - - - the reasons for this are both disputed and dubious but the family chose not to pursue the safety issues with the gym at the time. This is largely irrelevant now although they are willing to discuss it and disclose documents if necessary. Ann Maitland believed that the gymnastics management team were likely to deal with their problems in-house and had made it clear to her that they would close ranks and do whatever they could to discredit herself and Michelle, should she attempt to clarify details of the centre's poor coaching and safety standards. Due to the injuries already sustained at that time, the family felt it best to withdraw from further involvement, leave "the professionals" to improve procedures in-house, heal their own wounds and get on with other aspects of their lives away from gymnastics.

It is acknowledged by the Maitland family that Michelle Maitland experienced intermittently troubled and self-destructive times during her teenage years. This stemmed partly from the demolition of her lifetime dreams and ambitions, manifesting as physical and emotional frustration. She directed these frustrations and depression mainly towards herself but also partly towards her mother, blaming her for not being in a position to return the family to the UK. Ann Maitland is a dedicated parent and persisted with helping Michelle develop a positive future throughout this difficult and often stressful time. She encouraged Michelle to seek help or remove herself from the group of friends with whom she had developed bad habits and problems.

At the end of 2008 Michelle successfully did this, accepted that her lifestyle would lead to more problems and expected more from herself than she had been achieving at that time. She disassociated from a bad friendship group linked with amphetamine use and enrolled for a diploma study course which began in February 2009. Michelle's GP prescribed Valium, supposedly to assist with sleeplessness and withdrawal symptoms. A bad reaction to these caused an incident where she was taken to Townsville Hospital but no treatment was required or given. She was not admitted and allowed to leave a few hours after arrival when the effects of the valium reaction had subsided. Despite this initial difficulty with her withdrawal and renewal, she regained her self-confidence, rekindled relationships with old friends and developed new productive social friendship groups, thereby embracing greater health and well-being and a renewed, optimistic outlook for her future. Michelle had retained her lifelong passion for gymnastics and felt that practicing her natural skills and talent would enhance her new happiness, health and increased interaction with drug-free friends.

As Heatly Gymnastics had ceased operating, Gymnastics Townsville was the only facility available. Michelle was aware that at age 19, it was too late to resume competitive training but there was a Recreational class offered. This was advertised as a fun fitness class for anyone wishing to regain old skills, improve technique or beginners. This seemed like it should have been the safest place to perform the skills that she had maintained throughout her teenage years. Michelle was thriving physically, emotionally and scholastically when she joined the gymnastics group in April 2009.

Clearly Michelle Maitland's delight and enthusiasm at becoming involved with gymnastics again has proven to be the opposite of a good healthy choice. This time, her unnecessary injuries were FATAL.

Key Elements

There are several key elements involved with Michelle's fatal injury.

- Coach Robert Crane appears to have either not checked the circuit and not noticed that the crash mat, which is usually covers the concrete area after the initial 3.6m landing/dismount mat, was missing or, if he was aware of its absence, did not reposition it. The recommended 6metres of safety matting would have prevented any injury to Michelle from her poorly performed final somersault.
- NO supervision. The tumbling trampoline manufacturer's guideline recommend supervision AT ALL TIMES and lack of supervision being the most common cause of injuries, which may be catastrophic or fatal.
- The coach had instructed Michelle and another young gymnast, about technique for the somersaults they were performing from the tumbling trampoline. Rather than staying with them, even briefly, to watch their next jumps, he walked away to assist an inexperienced newcomer. Michelle's next and last attempt, with the new technique in mind, went horribly wrong. From a misguided take-off, she overrotated the somersault which threw her landing out of control. With the power and force driving her, her feet touched at the end of the 3.6m dismount mat and her momentum propelled her into the concrete floor beyond it, to where the missing mat should have been. This account of events is confirmed by two other young ladies who were watching Michelle's moves carefully and provided signed statements for insurance purposes.
- The other participant on the tumbling trampoline with Michelle states that their coach only turned around from where he had gone, after he heard Michelle's head smash into the concrete. The other person who had been closely observing Michelle is not entirely sure if Robert Crane may have been looking in Michelle's general direction but believes he was not. Again, there are signed statements to this effect. Graeme Brown (long term coach and life member of Gym Tsv) also told Ann Maitland that the coach did not see Michelle take off or crash and that the crucial crash mat was out of place. He was not present at the time of the fatality but that he had obtained the information from Robert Crane. Graeme Brown has since changed his account of events. The ranks were closing.
- Long-time member and coach, Robyn Dargan, was called in to clean up Michelle's blood and cerebral fluids. That call was made before Michelle had even been removed by the Qld Ambulance service. Gymnastics Townsville staff made no

report or contact with WH&SQ regarding Michelle Maitland's injury. WH&SQ only became aware that it had happened after Ann Maitland requested Qld Police Service attend the scene. The clean-up was almost complete when Ken Warren arrived with QPS officers, as the club was preparing for normal daily business, despite being aware of the fatality that had occurred and their obligation to report major injuries.

• A few days later, the gym's management team held a meeting to discuss Michelle's death. During this meeting it was decided that Graeme Brown would talk to the club members identified for moving the crucial crash mat out of place, about the importance of returning mats.

WH&S Trial

The simple and very basic error of not having a crucial safety crash mat in its usual place on the night of 18th June 2009, along with no supervision from a young coach, had a catastrophic outcome. A simple apology for these errors and a guilty plea to the WH&SQ safety contraventions charge could have been an end to the matter. Instead, Gymnastics Townsville chose to try to deflect responsibility onto their victim, by blaming Michelle Maitland, raising her previous drug-use issue and saying that she deliberately flung herself into the concrete as a Suicide!

Attempts to support this outrageous statement referred back to her visit to the Townsville Hospital, as mentioned earlier, when Michelle had clearly not been considered suicidal as evidenced by her quick release and no treatment required. Gymnastics Townsville claimed that she had made a suicide declaration at the hospital by saying she "didn't want to live with problems". In reality this was more likely an explanation for why she was withdrawing from her bad friendship group and drugs; not an intention to kill herself but an intention to clear problems out of her life. The hospital would have treated or admitted Michelle if she was considered suicidal.

Dr. Williams, who performed the autopsy on Michelle Maitland stated categorically that her previous medical history was irrelevant to her fatal injury. Toxicology reports found no amphetamines in Michelle's system and only residual amounts of marijuana postmortem. A suggestion was made that the post-mortem samples may have been mixed up. Pre-mortem tests found no traces of marijuana. Gymnastics Townsville's medical specialist claimed that the hospital must have used the wrong collection tubes when taking the pre-mortem samples . . . another attempt to divert attention away from their own basic failure. Michelle's mother does believe that Michelle may have smoked marijuana some days before her death but is certain that this did not occur on Thursday 18th June 2009. Michelle got home from a long day working in the clinic of the college she was attending, quickly changed and left to arrive at the gym class on time. Fatigue or hunger may have been contributing factors but drugs were not.

Mistakes, if not admitted, quickly become crimes and Perjury was committed under oath

by Robert Crane when he gave deliberately inaccurate accounts of what happened that night, of Michelle's training and safety knowledge, his observation of her landing and his opinion that she had suicided.

Daren Wolfe claimed that the critical, missing mat was not necessary. He also refused to provide the management's risk assessment to WH&S because he was "too busy" or their safety handbook because he felt it had "no value". He contributed a considerable amount of misleading and deliberately confusing comments in his attempt to cloud the genuine issues. Amongst these were misrepresentations such as saying he had not seen an incident from this tumbling tramp' during his 20 years of involvement with gymnastics or 14 years of operations at Gymnastics Townsville but he omitted any mention that the club had only had the tumbling trampoline for ONE year at the time of Michelle's death.

Gymnastics Townsville management has carried out their threat, to Ann Maitland in 2002, that they would close ranks and discredit the family in any way possible, if their gym's coaching or safety standards were challenged. This is not only immoral and unethical but also illegal. What began as tragic but unintentional errors has escalated to perjury, slander and a conspiracy to cover-up clear negligence and failures in the gym's duty-of-care to their participants, staff and volunteers. A simple acceptance of their role in Michelle's death could have resulted in a small fine, safer facilities and the ability to proceed with business without further complications. Instead, this club has chosen to stoop as low as possible and appear to have falsely influenced the magistrate.

WH&SQ investigators failed to determine the matting length expected at the end of a tumbling trampoline or the manufacturer safety warnings. They had 15 months to obtain information and familiarise themselves with gymnastics terminology but in fact, they could not even identify the difference between a Tumbling Tramp' and a Tumbling Track.

WH&SQ barrister Mr Major did not ask Daren Wolfe or anyone else, if the missing mat would usually be in place – it was Magistrate Ross Mack who was interested enough to ask this question himself and, after some evasion and attempts to confuse by Daren Wolfe, Magistrate Mack was eventually told that the mat was there usually and is now fixed in place.

Since the trial's completion, WH&SQ now claim not to know of any witnesses despite those witnesses providing explicit, detailed statements as mentioned earlier and Ann Maitland's attempts to discuss aspects of the case prior to the trial.

http://www.gymqld.org.au/default.asp?MenuID=Education/20945/17010

The content of each course level is relevant to the level of coaching/judging that you are doing. For example, Level 1 includes <u>introductory</u> training in the areas of Gymnastic Movement Patterns, Foundational skills, Role of the Coach, Safety, Communication, Group Management and Planning to name a few. The training program is relevant to those

coaches working with <u>beginner</u> gymnasts in any Gymsport. While Level 2 provides more specific training and expands training across the areas of Intermediate Gym Skills, Mechanical Principles of Movement, Planning and Sports Science. This more advanced training program is designed for coaches working within the lower competitive levels and who may take gymnasts through to Regional or State level competition. Robert Crane was coaching not only gymnasts either side of Michelle Maitland's calibre but also the Men's top team. He was underqualified for such roles and the gym's management should have insisted on higher coaching qualifications being obtained.

WH&SQ, did very little to dispute or discount any of Gymnastic Townsville's defamatory, slanderous statements or distortion of the truth, thereby allowing major distractions from the main point of their prosecution – the Safety Contraventions by Gymnastics Townsville Inc. and probably reduce their sentence and risk of prosecution by the coroner.

WH&SQ barrister Mr Major was briefed on the case only 36-48 hours prior to the case commencing in the Townsville Industrial Magistrate Court and frequently appeared to be lacking vital information.

Expected Outcomes

· Justice for Michelle Maitland

- This report be made available to Magistrate Ross Mack for his consideration prior to sentencing.
- This report be presented to the Northern Coroner and made available to media representatives.
- Coronial Inquest to be held into negligent actions of Gymnastics Townsville.
- Investigation into previous unreported accidents at Gymnastics Townsville that resulted in victims no longer being able to participate in the sport.
- Legislation enacted to ensure all children/teenagers gymnastics centres have concrete floors covered by a more appropriate material, thereby ensuring safer gymnastics facilities throughout Queensland, to be emulated across Australia.
- Exposure of the poorly investigated and presented case by WH&SQ and explanation of their refusal to collect vital information either independently or as offered by others.
- Greater involvement of families and other parties offering evidence and information to WH&SQ investigations where a fatality has occurred and the victim can no longer speak for themself.

• Explanation from Hon. Cameron Dick for failing to reply to or act upon correspondence from Rob Messenger MP in February 2010.

Conclusion

Australia prides itself on being a fun-loving but caring and proficient sporting first-world nation that is a global leader in many areas. Queensland prides itself on its "laid-back" lifestyle which, sadly, is sometimes interpreted as "lazy" rather than "relaxed".

Michelle was killed by incompetent carelessness and basic deficiencies in Gymnastics Townsville's Duty-of-care. To then distort and cloud those issues with their fictional statements that Michelle deliberately committed suicide is obscene and exhibits very low ethics within the club hierarchy.

Incompetence, thoughtlessness and carelessness will always exist. Landing errors by practicing gymnasts of any level will always exist. Lapses of concentration, poor judgement or time constraints on coaches will always exist. **Concrete floors are easily eliminated.** No Australian gymnastics centre for children, teenagers or young adults should have concrete floors that can be exposed, with disastrous consequences. It is a shameful, humiliating claim to infamy for Australian Gymnastics and the situation should be rectified as soon as possible.

This tragic death must now be viewed as a catalyst and opportunity to display courage in Government and dedication to their sport by gymnastics organisations. This opportunity should not be lost through inaction and disinterest.

The family does not see any benefit in jail sentences or the maximum fine that is possible. They simply want the management of Gymnastics Townsville to acknowledge their errors and improve their facilities, thereby vindicating Michelle's name and the ridiculous suggestion that she committed suicide. The family can never get Michelle back and have been left with a lifetime of grief. They have agreed that Legislation to ensure concrete floors are permanently covered in all Queensland gymnastics facilities would provide some comfort, in knowing that this suffering won't be inflicted on any other families and that many, less catastrophic, injuries will be prevented in future.

Failing acknowledgement and improvements, the Coroner should be called upon to charge the Management team and the Coach with Negligence Causing Death and any other option available under the law, including Perjury.

This photograph from Gymnastics Townsville's own website highlights the dangers that this gym regards as acceptable. It delivers any thinking lay-man with an appreciation of the risk that participants have been placed in. All the green area is concrete. http://www.gymnasticstownsville.com/welcome/photos/WAG/MAG%20Regionals%202 002%20-%20March%20On%203.jpg

Although the layout of the gym has been altered since this photograph was produced, current photographs on the following page of this document, demonstrate that large areas of concrete are still a major safety hazard. The writer is unable to gain access to Gymnastics Townsville facilities to obtain additional photographs but the reader can be assured that there are many other areas where children can damage themselves whilst going about their approved activities in this and some other centres around Queensland.

These risks and hazards are easily resolved and to leave the situation as it now stands is inadequate in Townsville or any other Queensland centre. Appropriate Legislation needs be introduced to raise these and any other gymnastics centres' floors to a safe standard for all future and current participants, their families and coaches.

Due diligence has not been shown by either Gymnastics Townsville or WH&SQ. I propose that it is now Parliament's role, as part of its ongoing responsibility to the state of Queensland's people, to impose improved safety criteria. Legislation enacted to enforce higher standards in Queensland should then be initiated and imitated across the country.



Rob Messenger MP MEMBER FOR BURNETT

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Hon Cameron Dick MP Attorney-General Minister for Industrial Relations GPO Box 149 BRISBANE O 4001

Dear Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of Ms Ann Maitland, of Townsville, regarding the untimely and tragic death of her daughter, Michelle Maitland, in June 2009 after an incident at 'Gymnastics Townsville'.

Ms Maitland's daughter was seriously injured after performing a routine somersault off purposed-designed gymnasium apparatus. It was quite clear from the conversation Ms Maitland had with those present at the time of the incident, that there were two safety mats missing at the time Michelle fell from the apparatus. One of these mats was crucial and its absence resulted in serious head injuries (17cm fractures in her skull).

According to Ms Maitland, usually there would be two long mats at the end of the trampoline apparatus, one on top of each other, and an additional crash mat at the end. On this occasion, on the 18th of June 2009, there was only one mat at the end of the trampoline, and the crucial crash mat had been removed which exposed concrete floor. Sadly, Michelle's head impacted against the concrete floor as she skidded her landing in an attempt to land on the one mat that was in place. Due to the apparent lack of safety mats, it appears that Gymnastics Townsville have been negligent.

Ms Maitland, who was formerly a recreational coach at Gymnastics Townsville and has been involved with Elite gymnastics in the UK, believes safety mats associated with purposed-designed apparatus at all gymnasiums throughout Queensland should be permanent fixtures, or alternatively the concrete itself should be replaced with rubber flooring public children's playgrounds such there are in all nowadays. Initially, when Ms Maitland raised the issue with the President of Gymnastics Queensland, Mr Wayne Hill, she was told that he would assist in the matter; however Mr Hill has since changed his mind due to the high costs involved in providing the additional safety floors and mats.

Furthermore, Ms Maitland informed me that there have been no improved safety measures introduced following Michelle's death at Gymnastics Townsville. The gym has continued to operate as per usual directly after and since Michelle's death.

Personally, I believe the safety of children and of other gymnastics participants is paramount and no amount of costs should be too high when considering their safety and wellbeing.

As the Minister responsible for workplace, health and safety, I ask that you consider the comments made by Ms Maitland in relation to the introduction of compulsory permanent safety mats and/or rubber flooring in all Queensland gyms.

In addition, Ms Maitland has raised concerns regarding the investigation into her daughter's death. She would like to see a full Coronial Inquest into Michelle's death, and as such has requested this. The Coroner is currently waiting for workplace health and safety reports and recommendations to be provided.

I therefore seek an undertaking that you will ensure these workplace health and safety reports are provided to the Coroner in a timely manner.

Ms Maitland also seeks an assurance that a competent and comprehensive investigation and report is carried out in relation to her daughter's death, as Ms Maitland believes the current workplace health and safety report is substandard. Ms Maitland claims that some relevant witnesses were not even interviewed and the workplace health and safety officers failed to follow up on genuine concerns raised by her that there have been various accidents at the gym that have not been reported and concerns over the poor safety standards practiced at the facility.

Could you please address the aforementioned concerns raised by Ms Maitland and act on her requests?

If you require further information to assist you in your investigation, please do not hesitate to contact Ann Maitland on 0438 577 578.

Thank you for your assistance in this grave matter.

Yours faithfully

Rob Messenger MP Member for Burnett



Rob Messenger MP MEMBER FOR BURNETT



3 February 2010

Hon Paul Lucas MP Deputy Premier Minister for Health GPO Box 48 BRISBANE O 4001

Dear Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of Ms Ann Maitland, of Townsville, regarding the untimely and tragic death of her daughter, Michelle Maitland, in June 2009 after an incident at 'Gymnastics Townsville'.

Ms Maitland's daughter was seriously injured after performing a somersault off gymnasium apparatus and was subsequently taken to the Townsville hospital and admitted to the Emergency department just before 9pm on the 18th of June 2009.

At approximately 10pm Ms Maitland went into the treatment room where her daughter was already strapped into ventilating machines and the medical staff present stated that they wanted to send Michelle off for a CT scan; however Ms Maitland claims that the CT scan was never performed because Michelle could not breathe once the tubes were removed.

According to Ms Maitland, she waited all night at the hospital, querying medical staff present as to what exactly they were waiting for. She was informed that they were "waiting for a miracle" and for "nature to take its course". During the course of the night, Ms Maitland persisted to query the medical staff as to what they were really waiting for and at approximately 4am she was told that the hospital staff were waiting for a neurosurgeon to turn up.

Ms Maitland recalls that the neurosurgeon eventually arrived at 6am on the morning of the 19th of June as far as she is aware. The neurosurgeon spoke with Ms Maitland briefly and recommended that Michelle's life support machines be turned off, which they did.

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Minister, I am writing to you because there are significant discrepancies in the opinion of the Radiologist present that night, and a letter from the hospital in relation to when the neurosurgeon arrived at the hospital. According to an official letter from the hospital, the neurosurgeon was at the hospital at 9.15pm and present while Michelle was having a CT scan; however Ms Maitland claims that this is incorrect, given that she was present at the hospital all night on the 18th of June. In addition to this argument, Ms Maitland has informed me that the Radiologist has stated that the neurosurgeon refused to come to the hospital on the 18th of June when he was summoned and that had he shown up to relieve the pressure on Michelle's brain, she would most likely be alive today. This information was provided to Ms Maitland via a Townsville solicitor who the Radiologist had spoken with.

In addition, the Coroner stated in a formal letter to Ms Maitland that he had perused the records and there didn't appear to be an explanation for the neurosurgeon's late attendance, and that he would investigate further.

Therefore, Ms Maitland would like you to investigate, clarify and explain the conflicting letters and opinions relating to the events of that night at the hospital.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Ann Maitland can be contacted for more information on 0438 577 578.

Yours faithfully

Rob Messenger MP Member for Burnett