

Media Release 6 April 2020 by WorkSafe International <http://worksafeinternational.com/>

## **ARTANIA OPERATORS MUST BE SUBJECT TO CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

Neil Bartholomaeus, former CEO of WorkSafe WA said today the operators of the Artania cruise ship in Fremantle must be investigated by WA Police for criminal negligence leading to death and grievous bodily harm. NSW Police are conducting investigations of the Ruby Princess and West Australians deserve similar attention to justice, he said.

Mr Bartholomaeus said the WA Police should also investigate potential to seize and confiscate the Artania in the context of property used to commit a crime.

Worksafe WA successfully prosecuted an employee in charge of a fishing vessel that sailed into cyclone Bobby in 1995 without attention to weather warnings, adversely affecting the safety of the crew.

“Similarly, now, cruise ship operators have sailed into viral storms infecting crew and passengers and must be investigated for their actions and the consequences,” he said.

Mr Bartholomaeus said it was public knowledge that cruise ships could be incubators for Coronavirus when the Diamond Princess was quarantined on 4 February at Yokohama in Japan with 252 persons infected with Coronavirus, including 24 Australians.

“After 4 February, cruise ships should have sought the first opportunity to safely disembark passengers and then home port.

“The deadly consequences of ignoring the precedent of the Diamond Princess should have been foreseeable by the operators of the Artania,” Mr Bartholomaeus said.

“Public information on the itinerary of the Artania on an ‘Easter Cruise’ suggests it was at the Seychelles on 4 February and was then scheduled to visit 13 ports in six countries in South East Asia before arriving in Darwin on 1 March and Cairns on 6 March.

“Fremantle wasn’t on the itinerary of the Artania where it arrived on 27 March with suspected Coronavirus infected passengers and crew on board, Mr Bartholomaeus said.

Mr Bartholomaeus said West Australians watched in fear as passengers and crew from the Artania were taken to Perth hospitals and into intensive care.

“The death and injury outcome because of the Artania cruising after 4 February was foreseeable by a reasonable person and the operators of the Artania must be investigated by WA Police for possible charges of criminal negligence causing death and criminal negligence causing grievous bodily harm.

Mr Bartholomaeus said the Artania is registered in the Bahamas, thus the investigation of any criminality for the Artania debacle should be done now before it sails out of reach.

CONTACT: Neil Bartholomaeus, Phone 0897724098, [neil@worksafeinternational.com](mailto:neil@worksafeinternational.com)