



MEDIA STATEMENT

Doctor and Accountant charged with fraud

5 December 2014

The Corruption and Crime Commission has charged a Perth doctor and his accountant wife with alleged fraud totalling nearly \$1.6 million.

The CCC will allege the 50-year-old doctor, who was based at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital at the time of the alleged offences, deliberately understated his earnings in official documents used to determine the amounts required to be paid to the hospital for providing equipment, facilities and other services for his patients.

It is alleged the fraud was achieved by concealing income from the hospital by various means, including:

- Telling hospital staff not to bill Medicare for certain services;
- Billing Medicare directly for those services with payments going into his company's bank account; and
- Directing Medicare benefit cheques to be forwarded to his home address.

The doctor is alleged to have deliberately understated the accounts he collected over four years from 2009-10 to 2012-13, resulting in a shortfall to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (the WA Department of Health) totalling \$1,589,422.

The 49-year-old accountant, who is married to the doctor, maintained the accounts of a company operated by the couple, including the company's bank account, into which the concealed funds were allegedly paid.

The CCC alleges the accountant certified the doctor's annual statements of earnings submitted to SCGH, knowing they were inaccurate.

It is alleged she knew her husband had taken deliberate steps to conceal much of his income from SCGH and knew that the amounts certified by her on his statements of earnings were misleading and inaccurate, resulting in a pecuniary benefit for herself and the doctor totalling \$1,589,422.

They have each been charged with four counts of fraud and are due to appear in Perth Magistrates Court on 30 December, 2014.

WA Health assisted the Commission's investigation.

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