



8 February 2019

## PRESS RELEASE

### DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY FOR MR HIRANIYAN DON QUARRIE

1. A Disciplinary Tribunal (“**DT**”) inquiry was held for Mr Hiraniyan Don Quarrie (“**Mr Don Quarrie**”) on 23 October 2018 (the “**Inquiry**”).
2. Mr Don Quarrie is a registered allied health professional. At the material time, he was practicing as a Senior Physiotherapist at Gleneagles Hospital, 6A Napier Rd, Singapore 258500 (the “**Hospital**”). At the time of the Inquiry, Mr Don Quarrie was no longer in the employ of the Hospital.
3. The proceedings arose from information that the Allied Health Professions Council (the “**Council**”) received, informing them that Mr Don Quarrie had been convicted in the State Courts of the Republic of Singapore (the “**State Courts**”) of one charge of intending to insult the modesty of a woman under Section 509 of the Penal Code on 27 July 2016. In sentencing, the State Courts also took into consideration a second criminal charge under Section 509 of the Penal Code, which related to a separate incident that had occurred at a later date. Mr Don Quarrie was eventually sentenced to pay a fine of S\$3,000, in default of 3 weeks’ imprisonment.
4. The conduct that resulted in the first criminal charge occurred on 12 September 2015 at the void deck of Block 111 Bedok North Road, Singapore (the “**Block**”), when Mr Don Quarrie hid behind a pillar where the victim, a 16-year old female student (the “**Victim**”) had been studying, and intermittently exposed himself to her and masturbated, over a period of time. The second criminal charge involved a different victim, to whom Mr Don Quarrie was alleged to have exposed himself to at a playground nearby to the Block, the following month.
5. The Council proceeded on one charge against Mr Don Quarrie, for committing an offence that implied a defect in his character that made him unfit for his profession. Mr Don Quarrie pleaded guilty to the charge and acknowledged that he had committed the offence of which he had been convicted. Accordingly, the DT found Mr Don Quarrie guilty of the charge.
6. On the issue of sentencing, the DT considered prior Singapore Medical Council (“**SMC**”) and Law Society of Singapore disciplinary proceedings, as there were no prior disciplinary cases involving an alleged defect in the character of a registered allied health professional that rendered him unfit for the profession at the time of the Inquiry.

- (a) where victims had their modesty insulted in the context of a clinical examination and this involved direct physical contact with the patient, such facts would be considered more egregious than those relating to Mr Don Quarrie's offence; but also that
  - (b) the Victim against whom Mr Don Quarrie's offence had been committed was very young and, through his conduct, he was "effectively corrupting her innocence".
- 7. Considering Mr Don Quarrie's mitigation plea, the DT was prepared to give weight to the remorse demonstrated by Mr Don Quarrie, his early plea of guilt, his willingness to co-operate fully at all stages of the Inquiry process and the apparent lack of premeditation on his part, when committing the offence.
- 8. While there was nothing to suggest that Mr Don Quarrie would re-offend, the DT balanced this against the fact that up to the date of the Inquiry, Mr Don Quarrie did not appear to understand what had compelled or triggered him to commit the offence of which he had been convicted.
- 9. In the circumstances, the DT ordered that Mr Don Quarrie:
  - (a) be suspended from practice for a duration of two (2) years;
  - (b) be fined S\$3,000;
  - (c) be censured;
  - (d) provide a written undertaking to the Council to abstain in future from the conduct complained of in the first criminal charge, or any similar conduct;
  - (e) during the period of suspension, undertake a psychiatric assessment by an independent psychiatrist to determine if psychiatric treatment is necessary and continue with psychiatric treatment, for such period of time as determined by the psychiatrist;
  - (f) on the expiry of the suspension period, produce the reports of the independent psychiatrist mentioned in (e) to the effect that Mr Don Quarrie is fit for practice, and then practice only within a supervisory framework approved by the Council for a period of one (1) year; and
  - (g) pay the costs and expenses of and incidental to these disciplinary proceedings.
- 10. The DT also ordered that its Grounds of Decision be published.
- 11. Mr Don Quarrie's two-year suspension took effect on 7 February 2019 and will run until 6 February 2021 (both dates inclusive).

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