

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

LIMITATION BILL 2005 AND LIMITATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT AND REPEAL BILL 2005

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE TAKEN
AT PERTH
ON FRIDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2005**

SESSION 1

Members

Hon Graham Giffard (Chairman)
Hon Giz Watson (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Ken Baston
Hon Peter Collier
Hon Sally Talbot

Hearing commenced at 9.50 am

WANN, MS COLLEEN, examined:

YOUNG, MR JOHN

**Deputy State Solicitor, State Solicitor's Office,
Level 14, 141 St Georges Terrace,
Perth 6000, examined:**

The CHAIRMAN: I welcome you to the committee. I have a short statement that I need to read out to you to explain today's hearing. On behalf of the committee, I welcome you to the meeting and thank you for attending to assist the committee with its inquiries. There are a few formalities that I need to address before our discussions commence. To begin with, would you please state your full name, contact address and the capacity in which you appear before the committee? You have signed a document entitled "Information for Witnesses". Have you read and understood that document?

Ms Wann: Yes. There was extra mail for me today, but apparently that has been sorted.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity. It has been a long time for me.

The CHAIRMAN: Even though this is a private hearing, you should note that the committee does retain the power to publish any private evidence. The Legislative Council may also authorise publication. This means that your private evidence may become public. Please note that you should not publish or disclose any private evidence to any other person at any time unless the committee or the Legislative Council has already publicly released the evidence. I advise you that the premature publication of private evidence may constitute a contempt of Parliament and may mean that material published or disclosed is not subject to parliamentary privilege.

Ms Wann: There may be a hiccup there. I was interviewed by a journalist. I wear "not for resuscitation", and she was given a kit, but she has since returned.

The CHAIRMAN: I am talking about the evidence that you give to the committee. What you say to journalists about your case is a matter for you, but I am talking to you about the evidence you give to the committee. You are not at liberty to discuss or divulge that.

Ms Wann: Okay.

The CHAIRMAN: In addition to the submission that you have forwarded to the committee, would you like to make an opening statement?

Ms Wann: As you know, it is potential medical negligence. I have received some good advice, I think, from Peter Handford and Jim Thompson. I have corresponded with a couple of Attorneys General now and I feel I have nothing to lose. I have had a shocking life and I have photos here today.

The CHAIRMAN: What do you hope will be achieved by the passage of the bills that the committee is considering?

Ms Wann: I hope I can have my day in court.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you think that the changes that are proposed by these bills in their current form will be effective in awarding cases such as yours?

Ms Wann: I do not know. I am not a lawyer or a polly, but as you can see, Peter Handford in his hypothetical situation was encouraging.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you have any concerns that you want to raise with the committee about the bills in their current form?

Ms Wann: I cannot bring its current form to mind.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything that you wish to provide to the committee today to observe or for it to consider? You have presented submissions to us. Is there anything else you wanted to show us?

Ms Wann: All that exists, you have. There are some photographs that the committee clerk knows about.

The CHAIRMAN: Did you want to table those photographs?

Ms Wann: They are to be returned, ideally; yes. I think it is wise to see them early rather than later, which is what has been happening.

The CHAIRMAN: I advise that we will return these to you at the end of the inquiry. We will take the opportunity to look at these now. Would you like us to look at these photographs now?

Ms Wann: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Did you want to talk to these photographs at all?

Ms Wann: That is the result.

The CHAIRMAN: Does anyone else have any questions?

Ms Wann, I do not have any further questions that I want to ask of you about your submission or any questions that you have raised today. Are there any further questions that members want to raise?

We do not have any further questions of you. Thank you for giving your evidence today.

Ms Wann: Thank you.

Hearing concluded at 10.02 am