

Letter To

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Karen Stott
Solicitor

Date

9th July 2013

I was very fortunate to have Karen Stott representing me in a complex medicolegal issue earlier this year.

Having been joined to a complex civil claim, which had previously failed to settle when the Local Health District had been named as a sole defendant, I found myself named as one of an additional six doctors subsequently joined to the claim. This essentially resulted in there being three separate legal teams associated with the defence of the claim.

Throughout this process, which was my first exposure to a civil claim, Ms Stott provided me with exceptional legal expertise, great insight into the complexities of the case as well as a level of personal support that went beyond my expectations.

At the outset, Ms Stott met with me as soon as she was appointed to my defence. She was able to explain in language that I could easily understand, the complexities of the various legal issues, the responsibilities of the individual parties on all sides and the various issues associated with defending an extraordinarily complex claim now made against multiple defendants that had been joined to the suit.

I felt reassured by the constructive management strategy that Karen suggested, as well as the fact that a proactive defence of my interests was being taken.

She went through the hospital records and volumes of other material that had previously been presented at a coronial inquest in great detail. I was extraordinarily impressed by her insight and understanding of the complex medical issues involved in the patient's management.

She was able to distil these complex medical issues in a succinct and easily understood fashion and present them in the legal framework required to proceed with the defence of this case. I was very impressed by her understanding of the various medical issues, the detail in which she reviewed the case as well as her legal expertise.

At every stage during this process Ms Stott was available to provide me with advice at any time. She was extraordinarily prompt in keeping me informed about each step of the legal process.

My sense of reassurance continued throughout Ms Stott's management of the case as she invariably anticipated with complete accuracy, the likely procedural, medico-legal and collateral issues to arise and had conferred with me beforehand about how best to manage them. Her knowledge, predictions and advice were entirely reliable.

For example,

- Karen impressed me with her capacity to understand the needs of a Visiting Medical Officer in the public hospital system as well as her capacity to explain these complex

issues in real terms.

- Karen was able to negotiate the complex issues associated with my defence as an individual indemnified by the Treasury Managed Fund, yet the Fund was also indemnifying the Local Health District. At times these issues appeared to be in conflict yet Ms Stott was able to find a balance between representing my interests as an individual whilst respecting those of the Local Health District.
- During the course of the claim there was also the additional complication of the proceedings being expedited. Because of Karen's proactive approach and dedication to my defence, I found that every issue that arose had already been anticipated we were well prepared; both in time as well as in advance of the other defendant parties, including the Local Health District, who had been the sole original defendant to the claim for over 1 year previous to the other defendants being joined and who had already attended an unsuccessful mediation of the claim.

My interests in this claim were ultimately resolved by Ms Stott in being able to negotiate the provision of an indemnity to me by the Local Health District, within the space of 3 months of having been appointed to represent me. The manner in which she was able to achieve this result was entirely consistent with the proposed management plan that Karen had discussed with me on the day of our first meeting.

I remain extremely grateful for Karen's personal support and legal expertise and would have no hesitation in recommending Karen Stott to colleagues who might find themselves in a similar situation in the future.

Signed By:

