

Affidavit of Shayne Peter Forrester dated 30 September 2022

I say on oath:

1. My name is Shayne Peter Forrester and I was born on 25 September 1966.
2. I was born in Christchurch, New Zealand (Aotearoa).
3. This affidavit has been prepared to support submissions to the United Nations made by Dr Patrick Keyzer, Reparation Legal, Level 13, 111 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000.
4. My sister lives in Townsville and my older brother lives in Melbourne.
5. My family life when I was growing up was hard.
6. My father was physically abusive, and he belted us often.
7. I have found it difficult to maintain relationships as an adult.
8. My father suffered from severe depression and when I was 14 years old, I witnessed him blow his head off with a shotgun.
9. I never went back to school after this happened.
10. After this event I started to engage in criminal offences.
11. At 17 years of age I was placed in Addington Remand Prison, and then Invercargill Youth Prison.
12. As a young adult in New Zealand I raced speedway sidecars.
13. On 7 February 1997 I broke my back.
14. After I was released from hospital, I decided to join my brother, who was then living in Karratha in Western Australia.
15. For about eighteen months I worked in various jobs, including truck driving, cement stabilisation work to fill potholes and repair roads, and the like.
16. In late 1998 I was working in Kununurra in Western Australia when I was offered a shot of amphetamines (speed).
17. I found that speed gave me temporary relief from my depression and my back pain.
18. I became an addict.
19. I became a dealer to support my addiction.


1

20. I later became a manufacturer to support my dealing.
21. I have a lengthy criminal history in Australia.
22. My final prison sentence in Australia was a sentence for 28 months for supply of methamphetamine and firearms offences.
23. When I was released from Casuarina Prison in Western Australia I was handcuffed by officers from the Australian Border Force and taken to Yongah Hill, an Australian Immigration Detention Centre in Western Australia.
24. They told me that my visa had been revoked on character grounds, and that I would have to successfully appeal to remain in Australia. I was confused and angry.
25. I was also seriously ill. During my final month in prison I had experienced pain while urinating and I reported this to the medical staff at Yongah Hill.
26. I had a chronically sore stomach and abdomen and sought help from a general practitioner there, Dr George.
27. On 4 November 2020, Dr George told me that he suspected I had prostate cancer. He told me I should see a urologist.
28. By this stage I had hardly any control over my bladder and my pants were often wet with urine.
29. I was contemplating suicide at this point.
30. Dr George also confirmed my diagnosis with depression and prescribed me 100 mg of Endep.
31. I understand that this is a significant dose and indicates that I have severe depression.
32. Due to my deteriorating health I was transferred to a "medical one-out" cell.
33. I was extremely anxious about my deteriorating health and that I was not receiving the specialist care I needed.
34. The day after I was advised my appeal from the revocation of my visa had been rejected, I was told that I was being transferred to Christmas Island.
35. I understand that one of the social workers at Yongah Hill tried to stop this from taking place but was unsuccessful.
36. On the day that I was removed from Yongah Hill I was angry and refused to sign a slip acknowledging receipt of my property.
37. I told the officers of the Australian Border Force that I wouldn't be leaving Yongah Hill.



38. I was told that "you will be going even if we are carrying you".
39. I realised then that resistance to this taking place was futile.
40. I was not allowed to return to my room and say goodbye to the friends I had made there.
41. At 330am the next morning, the Emergency Response Team charged in, handcuffed me, and bused me to the airport.
42. I needed to be close to a toilet at all times, but my requests were not met.
43. We sat on the bus for five hours before the flight.
44. My pants were wet with urine and I was dehydrated.
45. We were flown to Christmas Island handcuffed for the entire journey.
46. We arrived mid-afternoon, around 3.30pm.
47. I was told I was "white as" and taken to the medical bay at the Christmas Island Detention Centre, where I was given painkillers and electrolytic fluids.
48. I was there for about an hour before I was processed.
49. At Christmas Island there were a number of different units.
50. I was shown where a unit called "Green One" was located and pointed toward a 16-person dormitory.
51. I had to walk to the unit myself and negotiate a sleeping arrangement.
52. This room did not have air-conditioning.
53. The room had a toilet that needed to be shared with the eight other people occupying that room.
54. The food was terrible and arbitrary rule changes were issued on an almost daily basis. The environment seemed calculated to be demeaning and to provoke the detainees. There was no point making complaints because SERCO Officers, Emergency Response Team Officers and Australian Border Force Officers did not provide effective responses to any complaints.
55. I was at Christmas Island from 1 December 2020 to about the 7th of February 2021.
56. The weather on Christmas Island during this period was very hot and humid. We were given one hour of free time each day, and it was too hot to go to the gym or the oval.



3

57. I was in constant pain during this time and thought that I would die unless I received specialist medical care.
58. For that reason, I signed a declaration on the 14th of December 2020 relinquishing my appeal from the decision of the Minister for Immigration to revoke my visa. I felt I had no choice because I was afraid I would die there.
59. There was a riot at the Christmas Island Detention Centre while I was there.
60. I played no part in the riot and asked the officers at the Detention Centre to bring together the leaders of the by-then opposing parties of detainees so that they could mediate their disputes.
61. When the riot took place, Emergency Response Team officers in full riot gear cut the power and used tear gas to disperse the crowd. I witnessed brutality inflicted by ERT officers and I witnessed them damage the personal property of detainees.
62. Together with three other men we made our way through a hole that had been cut in the fence.
63. We were met with ERT officers there who threw us to the ground, handcuffed us, and took us to the tennis court.
64. We waited there for many hours and then we were taken to a large cell where we sat on a concrete floor for about two days.
65. For the next eleven days I was deprived of all my medications.
66. I was on a 100mg dose of anti-depressants at this time, and I felt as if I had been thrown off a cliff.
67. The conditions there were intolerable. Every day was a struggle. The boredom was relentless.
68. The Australian Border Force interviewed me at this time and I told them that I was signing the declaration to relinquish my appeal rights because the conditions at Christmas Island were intolerable.
69. In early February 2021 I was placed in a van, flown to Perth, and returned to Yongah Hill, to exactly the same unit that I had left two months before.
70. I was overwhelmed with anxiety and pain during this long, hot and uncomfortable journey back to Perth.
71. A few days later I was flown to Auckland via Tasmania. The entire journey took about 20 hours and I was in considerable pain the whole way.



4

72. This was a charter flight and all of the (about 18) passengers were surrounded by guards who ate and drank coffee while we were given nothing.
73. I was handcuffed for this entire period.
74. I was in pain the entire journey.
75. I was not allowed to stand up and stretch unless I had to go to the toilet.
76. At Auckland Airport a whole section of the airport was cordoned off in the arrival lounge. I was processed by the New Zealand Government, which included taking my DNA and fingerprints, given \$380, my property and medical records.
77. I was taken to the Ramada Hotel for two weeks to undertake COVID-19 quarantine.
78. I was required to walk up five flights of stairs to the room that was allocated to me, on the fifth floor.
79. I told them that I was too unwell to do this and ultimately, I was allowed to take the lift, accompanied by a guard.
80. By this stage I was urinating blood.
81. I told the people at the hotel I needed a doctor.
82. A doctor saw me and prescribed pills that slowed the flow of blood.
83. PARS (The Prisoner Aid and Rehabilitation Society (New Zealand)) provided me with assistance.
84. I flew to Christchurch where I stayed with my younger brother.
85. I was finally referred to a urologist.
86. Dr Jonathan Usher became my treating doctor.
87. He told me that my "PSA count" was 82 or 84. I was told this was extremely high.
88. On 14 February 2021 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer.
89. Dr Usher told me that I should have seen a urologist before.
90. I explained that I had been in detention and deprived of proper medical attention.
91. I was then referred to an oncologist and a psychologist.
92. The oncologist told me that my cancer had mutated to my liver, lymph nodes, bones and kidneys.



93. I was told that I was likely to be dead within 2 years.

94. I was prescribed chemotherapy, which I undertook.

95. I have also had a regime of implants to address my prostate cancer problems.

Sworn at: Sydney

Signature of deponent: _____



Name of witness: Mathew Lee Henderson

Address of witness: Reparation Legal, Level 11, 113 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Capacity of witness: Solicitor

And as a witness, I certify the following matters concerning the person who made this affidavit (the deponent):

1 I saw the face of the deponent.

2 I have confirmed the deponent's identity using the following identification document: Original New Zealand Driver's Licence BH220585

Signature of witness: _____



Mathew Lee Henderson
Solicitor of the Supreme
Court of New South Wales
Practising Certificate No: 57522

