

Name of Witness	Martin Lloyd SCHULZ
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	[REDACTED]
Occupation	Pharmacist/Business Manager
Officer taking statement	Detective Sergeant Stephen Platz
Date taken	13/05/2011

Martin Lloyd SCHULZ states:

1. I am a pharmacist and business manager for Mckerrell Pharmacies which owns and operates four pharmacies at Goodna, Banyo, Hervey Bay and Toowoomba. I am married to Kirsten McKerrell who is the owner of this business. Our Goodna Pharmacy is known Helmdale Pty Ltd trading as Goodna discount drug store which is located inside the St Ives Shopping Centre at Smiths Road, Goodna. My wife's family has owned this store since the late 1980's but my wife has owned it solely for the past four years.
2. I remember Tuesday 11th day of January 2011 I was at my head office located at Kenmore. Leading up to this date Brisbane had received a significant amount of rainfall and there was serious flooding in various parts of the state including the Lockyer Valley. With regards to the Goodna store there was no reason to suspect that flooding was ever going to be an issue at the centre, I was not aware of any flooding that had occurred at the centre or in the area where the store was located.
3. At about 10.00am I was at the head office in a meeting when I received a phonecall from the store manager, Michael FRANCISCUS. He told me that someone from Woolworths came in and advised them that they were evacuating the centre and suggested that we do the same. This evacuation concerned the risk of flash flooding to local roads and may cut off staff getting home. At no time was there any suggestion of flooding from the Brisbane River which is about a kilometre and half from the shopping centre. I asked Michael to verify as to what is going on through the centre manager and other authorities.

Witness Signature

Signature of officer

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MS

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Date:

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4. At about 10.30am Michael rang me back and stated that he made inquiries with the centre manager who he couldn't get in touch with and other tenants in the centre. At this stage no one had any idea of what was going on with regards to official evacuations or the risk of flooding. I then made the judgement call to evacuate the store just to err on the side of caution. Michael subsequently closed the shop and the staff went home. At no stage, however, did I receive any formal instruction from any authority concerning evacuations. I evacuated the store and sent staff home as I was concerned about roads being cut from flooding in the surrounding area. I had received no information that would make me suspect potential flooding of the centre.

5. I then monitored news websites, main road websites and the Bureau of Meteorology website during the day. Towards the end of the day at around 5.00pm, after viewing various news reports and websites, it was evident that the Brisbane and Bremer River may flood. I then rang some people I knew in the area of Goodna and asked them what the the flood situation was. They said the exit of the main freeway was cut from flooding and the rivers were rising above their banks.

6. I then contemplated driving out to the Goodna store to get some stock out and made some inquiries concerning this. At 7.00pm I received a phonecall from a friend at Collingwood Park who was driving around and she reported that there was flooding in the car park of the St Ives shopping centre and rising. Due to this report I decided not to try and recover stock.

7. At about 3.00am 12th January 2011 I was informed that the internal alarm to the shop had gone off or the power had been cut. It was apparent to me that flooding had got into the shop and had affected the alarm.

Witness Signature



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- 8. Over the next few days I received reports from people that the shopping centre where our store was located had totally flooded. On Thursday 13th February 2011 I planned to try and get to the store but received information that police had blocked the roads as there was a leaking gas tank in the area. I liaised with the Goodna police and outlined my concerns with regards to looting, especially with all the drugs in the store. The Police informed me that there was no access to the store but police were patrolling the area to maintain security.

- 9. It wasn't until Friday 14th January 2011 that I was allowed back into the store. Upon entry I saw that flood waters had been through the store to a height of 1.6 metres. All stock and infrastructure within the store was flood damaged. All up the replacement of the stock and shop fit amounted to about \$800,000.

- 10. My main concern was that there was no formal evacuation or warning by the authorities in relation to the flooding of the centre. If I had received some type of warning by say, 10.00am on the Tuesday, we could have saved a considerable amount of stock and equipment. I am aware of shops in Milton and Toowong who received a considerable warning just due to the reports of flooding upstream. We unfortunately did not have the time they had to evacuate their stock.

- 11. I think that because Wivenhoe dam was there, people became complacent and did not expect flooding in the Brisbane river to this extent. I am not aware of any planning in the centre or the Goodna area for any forced evacuation.

- 12. The Police performed patrols of the area and as a result no drugs were stolen from the store. I did not have any other need for a response from the authorities. The clean up of the store was conducted by staff and volunteers. The Ipswich City council has offered various business equipment to businesses affected by the floods and free advertising for businesses re-opened after the flood. Overall the response and recovery was sufficient.

Witness Signature  Signature of officer

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- 13. The store is insured through Guild Insurance who is affiliated with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. I put a claim in for the stock and damage to the shop for the full amount however I only received about 20% of this value. Despite this, the insurance company were prompt with their payment.

M.SCHULZ

Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

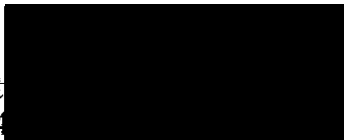
- (1) This written statement by me dated 13/5/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 4 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.



.....Signature

Signed atBrisbane.....this.....13th..day of.....May.....2011

Witness Signat
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.....Signature of officer

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