

Ban for Nurse

Alleged choker suspended, facing three probes

DAVID HURLEY AND GRANT MCARTHUR, the Herald Sun, February 3, 2018

A nurse caught on camera allegedly abusing a defenceless patient in his hospital bed has been suspended by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

The 30-year-old nurse is alleged to have abused patient Billy Aivaliotis, 33, at Caulfield Hospital on January 22, and now faces three separate investigations. Yesterday, the Herald Sun revealed that shocking footage captured on a hidden camera set up by Mr Aivaliotis' family had been passed on to Victoria Police, which launched an investigation this week.

Following the publication of the footage, investigations have been launched by Safer Care Victoria and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

Victorian Health Minister Jill Hennessy said: "The vision and account ... is deeply disturbing and raises serious concerns about the adequacy of the care provided by Alfred Health for Mr Aivaliotis.

"I have ordered Safer Care Victoria to undertake an independent investigation of this matter to assess the appropriateness of care and the treatment provided for him, and the adequacy of the health service's response to concerns raised about his care."

The footage was captured on a camera which was hidden in a picture frame by the patient's family, who said concerns they raised with hospital staff had fallen on deaf ears.

Law firm Arnold, Thomas and Becker, acting on behalf of Mr Aivaliotis, is initiating civil proceedings against the hospital in both the County and Federal courts.

Mr Aivaliotis, who was born with cerebral palsy, was struck by a vehicle last May 22 and suffered a significant brain injury and leg and rib fractures.

Alfred Health confirmed it had referred the matter to AHPRA. Alfred Health chief executive Andrew Way said the footage was "distressing and shocking". "This is not in keeping with the culture of advanced care that patients and families should experience in our hospitals," Prof Way said.

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation acting secretary Paul Gilbert said the nurse had tried to become a member of the union in the past few days when he realised he was under investigation but his application was rejected.

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