



CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

Australia, New Zealand and Oceania

18 February 2013

Statement by the Church of Scientology Australia Regarding Ms Alice Wu

The ABC's claims about Ms Alice Wu's experiences with the Church of Scientology in Sydney are a complete beat-up, considering it is at total variance from the view of Ms Wu herself.

In a notarised statement made in Taiwan by Ms Alice Wu regarding her experience with the Church of Scientology, she wrote:

"I applied to join the Church out of my own initiative and my own free will. At no time the Church was being forceful to me. During my stay in Sydney, most of the time I was attending classes to help improve myself and offering my assistance to others. The course that I attended in Sydney was beneficial to me.

"During my stay in Sydney, the Church and Church staff looked after me. None of them ever hurt me. My movements were totally free and I could also freely write letters or make telephone calls. On my days off, I could also go to the outskirts or the city centre of Sydney for sightseeing.

"I was able to keep my own passport and also had a return ticket. I could return to Taiwan anytime I wanted. The main point is that when I was in Sydney, I was quite happy and I never felt that I must return to Taiwan."

Ms Wu was due to return home to Taiwan when she fell ill with a flu, which delayed her return. Nevertheless, Ms Wu's passport and return air ticket were in her possession and no one else's.

Contrary to the ABC's claim, Ms Alice Wu had no religious counseling of any kind when she was in Sydney. While she stayed in the sick bay recovering from a flu, she had a quiet rest. It is common sense that anyone with a possibly communicable illness not mix too much with others who are healthy, so as to prevent the spread of the illness.

While Ms Wu was in the sick bay, she had full access to the property and outside. Her bed was no more than one-to-two metres from a door leading onto a garden and soccer field. She went for outside walks while she was in the sick bay as reported by another woman who was also ill with flu at that time.

All doors in the Church are readily opened from the inside, as they are also fire doors. In fact, there are ten external doors in the Church building which are readily accessible by anyone wishing to exit the building.

Anyone residing or visiting the Church can easily walk in and out – and they regularly do. Ms Wu was no different.

The Founder of Scientology, L. Ron Hubbard wrote in the book *The Way to Happiness*, *“When they are ill, even with communicable diseases people often do not isolate themselves or seek proper treatment. This, as you can easily see, tends to put you at risk. Insist when someone is ill that he or she takes the proper precautions and gets proper care.”*

When Ms Wu fell into a fever and was somewhat delusory, she cut her hand, a church staff member immediately called an ambulance so she could get to a hospital for treatment.

To quote Ms Wu:

“During my time with the Church, I was very well looked after. The fact that I was ill later and that I was injured were not caused by the Church. The Church actually immediately sent me to hospital to receive treatment.”

At all times she was treated with kindness. There are many witnesses to this fact.

The ABC has also falsely insinuated that Ms Wu must have been paid by the Church to make the above statement. This accusation is without basis and is an insult to both Ms Wu and the Church.

It is regrettable that Ms Wu’s family members, when they were initially contacted regarding her welfare, thought the calls from the hospital and the Church were a hoax. The Church made numerous attempts to convince her brother and her father that she was in a Sydney hospital, but it took them a few days before they finally realised that it was true. Sadly the family contacted someone hostile to the church who convinced them, with baseless claims, that the Church had held Alice prisoner when the facts are totally the opposite.

At that time, Ms Wu was in a Sydney based general hospital, recovering from surgery to her hand. Not in a psychiatric hospital.

The Church was not contacted regarding any plan or action to transfer Ms Wu to a psychiatric facility. The hospital may have informed Ms Wu’s next of kin in Taiwan, but the Church was not contacted by the hospital regarding Ms Wu’s progress. This transfer was the hospital’s decision and had nothing to do with the Church.

Contrary to the ABC’s claim, the Church did not seek her hospital records and had no reason to do so. It would appear in fact that it may have been the anti-Scientology lawyer Grainne O’Donovan, the source of the story against the Church, who did this.

To end with the words of Ms Wu:

“No media organisation ever obtained my permission or asked for my consent to report what had happened in my past, during my stay in Sydney and while I was attending the Church..

“I do not wish to see the Church of Scientology to be harmed by anyone. Damaging the Church of Scientology by any individual or any media organisation would totally go against my real intention, and I hope they would immediately discontinue.

“I am quite well now and I would like to remain in the Church to continue my services.”

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