

Job fear for nurse in Botox inquiry

A NURSE at the centre of a Botox investigation says her reputation is in tatters and she fears for her job.

Mehery Sanam's Goldsborough Valley home was raided by Health Quality and Complaints Commission investigators and police last week after allegations she has been illegally administering cosmetic injections to people.

Ms Sanam yesterday admitted she had been injecting people with the drugs but denied it was illegal nor were the drugs banned.

She also rejected claims she hosted Botox parties with each appointment one-on-one with clients.

Ms Sanam, who is a theatre nurse at Cairns Base Hospital, said she had done nothing illegal or wrong.

"I'm a wreck; I am a mess," she said. "This has caused a lot of grief and tarnished my reputation."

"I feel as though I have been unfairly treated."

Ms Sanam, who has been a nurse for 40 years, said the practice of injecting people with Botox injections was widespread in the beauty industry in Cairns.

She said she had undertaken a Botox injection course at the Brunswick Health Centre in Sydney and was certified.

Ms Sanam said she knew Botox was a prescription drug and was supposed to be acquired from the manufacturer, Allergan.

But, she said, the reason she started supplying the

Nick Dalton

daltonn@tcp.newsltd.com.au

injections, including Collagen, was the "exorbitant" price charged by doctors.

Ms Sanam said she had imported her products from the US and one called Bothalium Toxin Type A from China because it was better quality.

She said there was demand for her service with at least 40 clients whom she saw in their own homes or at her home.

"There have never been Botox parties. It is a one-on-one consultation," Ms Sanam said.

The 62-year-old said she migrated to Australia from Iran in the early 1970s, became an Australian citizen and qualified as a nurse at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane in 1976. She has been a nurse at the Cairns hospital since 1994.

Ms Sanam said only one of her clients had suffered side effects such as bruising, which was common.

"This woman also suffered an allergic reaction but I didn't know she had an allergy until she told me afterwards," she said.

Ms Sanam said the commission took all her drugs, bank account details and other documentation but was not returning her calls.

She said she had yet to face her superiors at the hospital and Queensland Health.

"I think they will want to talk to me," she said.

The commission has yet to lay any charges and says its investigation is continuing.



Retiring: Cairns Day Surgery registered nurse Sandra Hennessy.

Picture: MARC McCORMACK

Sandra's 50 years of care

A LITTLE bit of care went a long way for Cairns nurse Sandra Hennessy.

The 65-year-old registered nurse from Cairns Day Surgery, who is retiring after 50 years on the job, attributes the caring nature of both her colleagues and patients to her long stint in the Queensland healthcare industry.

"I've hardly ever met a patient who wasn't considerate to a nurse," Mrs Hennessy said.

"They were respectful to nurses years ago and they still are today.

"You'd be working long hours and they'd be concerned that you hadn't had your morning tea.

"Even when they came for a procedure, they'd be concerned about

how long you've been on your feet."

Her colleagues, she said, often went above and beyond duty to ensure she and others were well looked after.

Mrs Hennessy started her career as a nurse at the early age of 15 at the Mater Hospital in Bundaberg.

She had worked in Mossman and Windorah in south west Queensland, before returning to the Far North to work at the day surgery five years ago.

Mrs Hennessy said she has been amazed at how much her job has been made easier through technological and professional improvements.

"There are a lot better hours, and the pay's improved and you've got a lot more opportunity for education and things like that," she said.

IN BRIEF...

Disaster advice

A FREE disaster preparedness workshop will be held tonight at Kurrimine Beach as the first of a Far Northern series for coastal towns at risk of experiencing the impacts of a storm surge or tsunami. The session, which will give advice on disaster preparation lists, will be held at Kurrimine Beach's Progress Hall from 6.30pm-7.30pm.

Day care damage

VANDALS played havoc at Cairns South Family Day Care at Woree causing more than \$3000 in damage. Offenders targeted the Windarra St facility between 10am on Saturday and 8am on Monday. Police believe children smashed four windows and destroyed a mirror, used by day care kids to play dress-ups. Entry was not gained to the building with most of the damage done in the playground area.

Prisoners caught

TWO prisoners on the run from Townsville were caught by police after they allegedly made a trip to Cairns and robbed a woman of her handbag. Luke Robert Crisp, 27, was caught at Rollingstone about 3am, while Aaron David Walker, 20, was arrested at Balgal Beach, about 5km away, at 10.30am on Monday. Police found a stolen vehicle they believed was used in a robbery and assault on a woman in Cairns on Saturday night. The woman was walking along Wharf St about 9pm when the men allegedly grabbed her bag, pushing her to the ground. The vehicle was found about 4.30pm on the Mt Paluma turn-off on the Bruce Highway at Rollingstone.

Teen charged

A 16-year-old boy has been charged with an attempted robbery with violence after he allegedly used a fence paling to demand cash at an Earville store. Cairns detectives of the Child Protection Investigation Unit charged the teenager on Monday night. The alleged offender and a woman walked into the Balaclava Friendly Store on Balaclava Rd about 4pm on Sunday. The boy will be dealt with under the Justice Juvenile Act. Police are still hunting for the woman.

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