

**I make this submission with respect to the failure of the building at 382 Colombo St on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011.**

At about 12.45 on the day of the earthquake, my wife, Margaret and I entered the building for a quick lunch. As I entered, I noticed the building next door which was cordoned off. The thought crossed my mind that it looked unsafe but, having been inspected, was presumably all right as it stood. This turned out to be an incorrect judgment.

There had been repeated public announcements of the likelihood of considerable earthquakes following the September event. In my opinion, the assessors failed to recognize this risk in assessing the building next door and that when and if the subsequent earthquake occurred, the single-story building at 382 was at high risk from the collapse of the intervening second-story wall. This was precisely the sequence of events on 22<sup>nd</sup> February with loss of life and severe injuries to several, my own injuries being nearly fatal, one woman becoming paraplegic and my wife continuing to suffer the consequences.

Just ahead of us in entering the building was Maureen Fletcher. Though she was unknown to us, I suggested that we all occupy the one remaining table. As I sat down, we were all struck with utterly no warning and she was killed outright. Our family was able to contact hers and our daughter-in-law attended her funeral.

I should like to acknowledge here the courage with which Craig Fawcett re-entered the shattered building with the imminent risk of after-shocks and rescued me, dragging me out of the rubble. An unknown passer-by assisted him. We do not know who saved Margaret. I have also the highest praise for other volunteers, emergency workers and hospital staff for their outstanding response in this crisis, albeit I was only dimly aware of events at the time.

It was unfortunate that a policeman who soon appeared on the scene mis-identified Margaret's handbag as belonging to Maureen; our family was incorrectly notified that Margaret was dead and I was missing. While this mistake is understandable, given the stress under which the constable was working, nevertheless the consequence was an avoidable episode of extreme trauma for members of our immediate family.

I wish the Commission well in its deliberations. We shall not be attending, having moved in accordance with plans made before the earthquakes started.

Bruce Moon,

29<sup>th</sup> December 2011