



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP**  
Dr Andreas Schloenhardt (Coordinator)

The University of Queensland  
TC Beirne School of Law

The University of British Columbia  
Centre of International Relations

[www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking](http://www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking)

**CASE REPORT**

Current as on: February 3, 2009

| <b>Case Name</b>             | <b>Hector Hapeta and Anne Marie Tilley</b>  |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Reported in</b>           | <i>R v Anne Marie Tilley</i> [1996] QCA 310<br><i>R v Anne Marie Tilley</i> [1999] QCA 244<br><i>R v Corrigan</i> [2001] QCA 251<br><i>R Convery, Hapeta &amp; Jones</i> [1989] QCA 217<br><i>R v Hapeta</i> [1990] QCA 283<br><i>R v Hapeta &amp; Tilley</i> [1995] unreported   |
| <b>Date(s)</b>               | 1979-2001   |
| <b>Court/Jurisdiction</b>    | Queensland  |
| <b>Charges:<br/>H Hapeta</b> | s 9 <i>Drugs Misuse Act 1986</i> (Qld): Possessing dangerous drugs<br>s 5 <i>Drugs Misuse Act 1986</i> (Qld): Trafficking in dangerous drugs<br>s 87 <i>Criminal Code</i> (Qld): Official corruption<br>s 10A <i>Drugs Misuse Act 1986</i> (Qld): Possessing suspected property<br>s 229G <i>Criminal Code</i> (Qld): Procuring a person to engage in prostitution<br>s 229K <i>Criminal Code</i> (Qld): Having an interest in premises used for prostitution<br>s 229H <i>Criminal Code</i> (Qld): Knowingly participating in prostitution |
| <b>Charges:<br/>A Tilley</b> | s 5 <i>Drugs Misuse Act 1986</i> (Qld): Trafficking in dangerous drugs<br>s 229G <i>Criminal Code</i> (Qld): Procuring a person to engage in prostitution<br>s 229K <i>Criminal Code</i> (Qld): Having an interest in premises used for prostitution<br>s231 <i>Criminal Code</i> (Qld) (repealed): Bawdy houses (Keeping a house for the purpose of prostitution)<br>s 229H <i>Criminal Code</i> (Qld): Knowingly participating in prostitution  |
| <b>Appeals</b>               | 1989, 1990, 1996, 1999, 2001  |
| <b>Co-accused</b>            | n/a   |

## Contents

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Hector Hapeta.....      | 2 |
| Summary of facts .....  | 2 |
| Convictions .....       | 3 |
| Anne Marie Tilley ..... | 3 |
| Summary of Facts.....   | 3 |
| Convictions .....       | 4 |

Mr Hector Hapeta and his de facto wife Ms Anne Marie Tilley were responsible for one of the biggest prostitution and drug syndicates to be discovered in Queensland's history. It collapsed following the 1989 *Fitzgerald Inquiry*.<sup>1</sup>

## Hector Hapeta

### Summary of facts

Wellington-born Hector Hapeta, often referred to as the 'big man' of the *Fitzgerald inquiry*,<sup>2</sup> initially came to Brisbane in 1979 from Sydney to work as a bouncer, but found his way into the more profitable areas of drug supply and prostitution. During the 'Second Joke' period,<sup>3</sup> a sex worker in his employ claimed he was paying police around \$100,000 per month for protection. This was organised through notorious bagman Mr Jack Herbert.<sup>4</sup>

During the *Fitzgerald Inquiry*, a landmark inquiry into systemic police corruption, Mr Hapeta repeatedly refused to answer questions, claiming to be in the truck driving business. The inquiry, however, found that Hapeta was responsible for running a large number of brothels in Brisbane in concert with Ms Anne Tilley.<sup>5</sup> Fitzgerald did not make a finding as to Mr Hapeta's involvement with drugs, but later investigations revealed that drugs were commonly supplied through the brothels or massage parlours under Hapeta's control.<sup>6</sup> He was also known for viciously beating sex workers in his employ who he considered to be misbehaving.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Queensland, Report of a Commission of Inquiry pursuant to Orders in Council, *Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct* (1989).

<sup>2</sup> 'Colourful Fitzgerald Inquiry Figure Dies in Jail' *Australian Associated Press* (Australia), 30 Dec 1998.

<sup>3</sup> The 'Second Joke' refers to the period during which Terrence Lewis was Commissioner of Police from 1974 to 1989. The SP Bookmaker protection racket of the 'First Joke' flourished and was expanded to include prostitution. The 'First Joke' refers to the period before Raymond Whitrod became Commissioner, where protection was provided to SP Bookmakers in an opportunistic manner.

<sup>4</sup> *R v Hapeta* [1990] QCA 283.

<sup>5</sup> Queensland, Report of a Commission of Inquiry pursuant to Orders in Council, *Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct* (1989) 65.

<sup>6</sup> Tom Gilling, 'The Bagman and Me' *The Weekend Australian Magazine* (Australia) 2 October 2004.

<sup>7</sup> 'Colourful Fitzgerald Inquiry Figure Dies in Jail' *Australian Associated Press* (Australia), 30 December 1998.

## Convictions

Mr Hector Hapeta was initially convicted in 1989 for possessing heroin, trafficking heroin and official corruption, ss 5, 9 *Drugs Misuse Act 1986* (Qld) and s 87 *Criminal Code* (Qld).<sup>8</sup> In respect of the drug offences, he was sentenced under mandatory sentencing legislation to life in prison. He also received eight years in respect of the conviction for official corruption. Queensland's drug laws were later reviewed by the newly elected government under Labor Premier Wayne Goss, and when the mandatory sentencing of drug traffickers was abolished in 1990,<sup>9</sup> he was re-sentenced to 14 years imprisonment.<sup>10</sup>

Mr Hapeta was released into home detention in 1995, but within three weeks he was arrested and convicted for prostitution related offences, namely for procuring a person for prostitution s 229G, having an interest in premises used for prostitution s 229K, and for being knowingly involved in the provision of prostitution s 229H *Criminal Code* (Qld). As these offences breached his release conditions, he was returned to prison to complete his earlier sentence.

Hapeta was released in 1998, but was arrested soon after in relation to trafficking both amphetamines and heroin.<sup>11</sup> It was whilst on remand for these charges that he died of a heart attack in Moreton Correctional Centre on December 29, 1998.

## Anne Marie Tilley

### Summary of Facts

Ms Anne Marie Tilley worked as a sex worker before meeting Mr Hapeta. She had been convicted of numerous prostitution-related offences from 1972–1981, such as keeping a bawdy house (keeping a house for the purpose of prostitution), s 231 *Criminal Code* (Qld).<sup>12</sup> After being released from prison in 1981, corrupt police officer Mr Harry Burgess introduced Ms Tilley to the head of the police's Licensing Division, Mr Noel Dwyer.<sup>13</sup> At the same time Dwyer was approached by an associate of Hapeta seeking protection for their prostitution syndicate. This protection was organised by Jack Herbert, who received payments from the Hapeta-Tilley syndicate and allocated these payments to officers who were in on the 'joke'.

Ms Tilley cooperated with the *Fitzgerald Inquiry*, and contradicted Jack Herbert as to the amount her syndicate paid him for protection. Mr Herbert claimed to personally receive only \$23,000 each month from the Hapeta-Tilley syndicate, whilst Tilley put the figure at \$38,000 per month.<sup>14</sup> At the height of the 'Second Joke', over \$600,000 per year was being funneled through Herbert to the police for protection of prostitution, bookmaking, and gaming.

---

<sup>8</sup> *R Convery, Hapeta & Jones* [1989] QCA 217.

<sup>9</sup> Section 5 *Drugs Misuse Act Amendment Act 1990* (Qld).

<sup>10</sup> *R v Hapeta* [1990] QCA 283.

<sup>11</sup> *R v Corrigan* [2001] QCA 251.

<sup>12</sup> *R v Anne Marie Tilley* [1996] QCA 310. The s 231 Bawdy houses offence was repealed in 1992 by s 11 *Prostitution Laws Amendment Act 1992* (Qld), No 65 of 1992. This Act also introduced the Chapter 22A offences currently in operation.

<sup>13</sup> Queensland, Report of a Commission of Inquiry pursuant to Orders in Council, *Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct* (1989) 65.

<sup>14</sup> Queensland, Report of a Commission of Inquiry pursuant to Orders in Council, *Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct* (1989) 66.

## Convictions

Ms Tilley was convicted of official corruption, s87 Criminal Code (Qld), after the *Fitzgerald Inquiry*. Whilst on parole, in July 1996, she was convicted of a number of prostitution offences along with Hapeta.<sup>15</sup> These offences included procuring a person for prostitution s 229G, having an interest in premises used for prostitution s 229K, and for being knowingly involved in the provision of prostitution s 229H *Criminal Code* (Qld). She received a suspended sentence of two years imprisonment in respect of the s229G offence and was fined in relation to the other two matters.

Whilst Hapeta was still in prison, he engaged Mr Anthony Corrigan, who was serving an eight year sentence for misappropriation whilst an accountant, to prepare methylamphetamines once he was released in 1997.<sup>16</sup> When Mr Corrigan became ill from this activity, he taught Ms Tilley how to produce the drug.<sup>17</sup> Tilley was then charged in 1998 with trafficking in both amphetamines and heroin, s 5 *Drugs Misuse Act 1986* (Qld), receiving a nine year prison term.<sup>18</sup> As noted above, Hapeta died before he could face these charges.

An electronic copy of this document is available at [www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking](http://www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking)  
© 2009, A Schloenhardt, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

---

<sup>15</sup> *R v Anne Marie Tilley* [1996] QCA 310.

<sup>16</sup> 'Drug 'Cook' for Crime Boss Has Jail Term Reduced', *Courier Mail* (Brisbane), 30 June 2001.

<sup>17</sup> *R v Corrigan* [2001] QCA 251, 3.

<sup>18</sup> *R v Anne Marie Tilley* [1999] QCA 244