

Response from The Australian:

The Australian's story stated that a person was being tested. This was accurate and there is no dispute that a test for coronavirus was carried out.

The Australian contacted the Health Department and NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard repeatedly for comment when alerted to the concerns both of the ship's crew as well as NSW Health, before publishing.

The Australian received no response from either until a statement was released later that day which confirmed a person was being tested.

The information that the person was from Singapore was initially relayed by the NSW Health Department to other health officials.

The Australian reported factually that the person tested by NSW Health returned a negative result for coronavirus.

Several passengers confirmed on the record that the ship's arrival had been delayed into Sydney Harbour for more than an hour, as announced by the crew, while crew sought to ascertain whether passengers had recently visited China.

Our report was balanced and included the following statement:

"A source said the man was being tested as a precaution and has not yet been confirmed to have the virus. He had been taken from the ship, with other passengers believed to have been prevented from disembarking. The precautionary testing is in line with the Victorian government's approach to a ship where a man had been suspected of having the virus but was later confirmed to have been cleared."