

Ann Marie Smith's carer was banned amid missing money claims, SA committee hears

By [Nick Harmsen](#)

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The death of disability care recipient Ann Marie Smith is being investigated. (Supplied: SA Police)

A parliamentary committee has heard the disability carer for Adelaide woman Ann Marie Smith was not screened until after her client's death, despite being banned by one State Government agency over allegations that clients' money had gone missing while she had worked in their homes.

Ms Smith, 54, died on April 6 from [severe septic shock, multi-organ failure, severe pressure sores, malnutrition and issues connected with her cerebral palsy](#).

Police allege she had suffered extreme neglect, and [may have been left sitting in a cane chair in her Kensington Park home](#) for up to a year.

Detectives are conducting a manslaughter investigation into the death.

Ms Smith had been registered for six hours of care a day through National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider Integrity Care.

The company had provided the care through State Government agency Disability SA until Ms Smith transferred to the NDIS in 2018.

Key points:

- Ms Smith's death on April 6 was made public several weeks later
- Her carer was revealed by her lawyer, barrister Stephen Ey, as Rosa Maione
- State Parliament has heard concerns were raised over Ms Maione in 2013

Appearing before SA Parliament's Budget and Finance Committee on Monday morning, the Department for Human Services outlined several "flags" against both Rosa Maione and Integrity Care.

"In 2013, Domiciliary Care services, which were part of our department at the time, banned Rosemary Maione, who was employed by Integrity Care, from providing services to Domiciliary Care clients," department chief executive Lois Boswell told the committee.

"This decision was made as a result of allegations that clients' money had gone missing when she was working in their homes.

"Integrity Care was informed of these allegations and of the decision that she was not to work for Domiciliary Care clients.

"We have not yet found any records that this information was provided to the screening unit or to other parts of the department which contracted Integrity Care, including Disability SA."

Ms Boswell said the missing money was not reported to police at the request of families that made the allegations.

"The complexity here is there was no specific investigation and it was not reported to police because the families asked for it not to be, so it was an internal ban within the department that was not passed on," she said.

Carer's disability screening applied for after Ms Smith's death

Ms Boswell told the committee that it appears Integrity Care had employed Ms Maione without a disability worker screening.

"On receiving the name of Ann Marie Smith's carer from the NDIA [National Disability Insurance Agency] on Monday, May 18, 2020, I asked the disability Screening Unit whether we had any information regarding her screening history," she said.

"I was advised the only completed application for a disability services screening for Rosemary Maione was submitted and paid for by Integrity Care on April 15, 2020."

Ms Smith had died days earlier, on April 6.



Ann Marie Smith's home in Bradman Court, Kensington Park. (Supplied: SA Police)

"On May 18, 2020, the same day we were advised, the DHS [Department of Human Services] Screening Unit made the decision to revoke her screening," Ms Boswell said.

"We have also found no records as yet that Ann Marie Smith was visited by Disability SA while Ms Maione worked with her.

"However, we are still searching our archives. Ann Marie was contacted annually by Disability SA to review her needs and services."

The committee heard that Integrity Care failed to meet four performance requirements in a State Government audit in October 2017.

"One of those requirements was to ensure that policies outlining the action to be taken regarding critical client incidents including requirements to notify the department and SAPOL were updated," she said.

"Actions to remedy these deficits were completed by Integrity Care in February 2018.

"Whilst culpability for Ann Marie's death may lie with particular individuals, and we must leave that for police to investigate, there has clearly been safeguarding failures for Ann Marie and these may have occurred over a number of years."

Police investigations into the circumstances of Ms Smith's death remain ongoing.

The ABC has approached representatives for Integrity Care and for Ms Maione for comment on the allegations raised before the committee.

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