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# Herald Sun

## HIDDEN CAMERA FILMS ALLEGED PATIENT ABUSE

## POLICE LAUNCH PROBE INTO HOSPITAL HORROR



# CHOKER NURSE

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Hospital patient Billy Aivaliotis

SHOCKING footage has emerged that shows a nurse abusing a defenceless patient in his hospital bed.

Police have begun investigating after they received the footage, which was filmed at Caulfield Hospital, earlier this week.

The camera was hidden in a picture frame by the patient's family, who said concerns they raised with hospital staff had fallen on deaf ears.

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**DAVID HURLEY**

Last night, the hospital told the *Herald Sun* the nurse had been stood down and no longer worked there.

Law firm Arnold Thomas and Becker, acting on behalf of the patient, is initiating civil proceedings against the hospital in both the County and Federal courts.

Footage filmed on January 22 shows a male nurse grabbing the patient, Billy Aivaliotis, by the throat.

The footage was given to the *Herald Sun* yesterday with the consent of the family and of the guardian of Mr Aivaliotis, 33.

Mr Aivaliotis, who was born with cerebral palsy, was struck by a vehicle last May 22 and suffered a significant brain injury and multiple

leg and rib fractures. After treatment in the Royal Melbourne Hospital, he was transferred to Caulfield Hospital.

But his family became concerned when he began losing weight and showing signs of bruising.

They told the *Herald Sun* they raised concerns about his treatment with hospital staff many times, but were dissatisfied with the response.

"For months, we were totally ignored," a family member said.

So the family decided to set up a camera in his hospital room.

"Billy fought for his life after the accident. To beat death and recover, only to be abused and mistreated when completely defenceless, is totally devastating and infuriating," the family said.

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## Top secret action being launched in the High Court

AUSTRALIA'S highest court is set to hear an extraordinary top secret case that will shake a significant Victorian government institution and could trigger a royal commission.

In a major development, the institution has lodged an application with the High Court in a last-ditch bid to

**ANTHONY DOWSLEY**

thwart an action from a separate government organisation.

Suppression orders imposed prevent the *Herald Sun* from identifying the institution, the organisation, and a third party, other than as AB, CD, and EF.

The case has already worked its way through Victoria's Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.

The institution has now sought special leave from the High Court to appeal against those earlier decisions.

Unless the appeal is successful, it is likely a series of dramatic developments

will unfold, leaving the Andrews Government with little choice but to order a royal commission or set up some other form of judicial body to investigate events.

The developments that could trigger the royal commission cannot be detailed for legal reasons. Senior government figures

are being briefed, and are leaving the way open for a judicial inquiry.

If secretive legal orders are lifted, and the *Herald Sun* is able to tell this story, it will captivate and appal Victorians, and leave some former senior figures from the institution facing serious questions.