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Bar worker 'was unconscious in minutes'

Tony Moore | November 13, 2007 - 5:31PM

The 21-year-old employee at the Wellington Point Hotel suffered an allergic reaction to seafood was laughing and eating only minutes before breathing difficulties began.

Michelle Bray - who was looking forward to becoming a mother after 10pm last night at her work Christmas party, was desperately trying to revive her at the scene.

Wellington Point Hotel manager Scott Hogan said he had won tons and said the hotel's staff were still shocked.

"It happened in the space of two minutes," Mr Hogan said.

"She was playing ping pong and nibbling food," he said.

"In two minutes she was struggling for breath and within five minutes she was unconscious."

Mr Hogan said the staff did not know Michelle suffered an allergy to seafood.

"We didn't know whether she had an allergy to seafood."

"We don't know if she knew and she didn't think it was that bad."

He said the ambulance was called immediately and arrived on the scene in about 10 minutes.

"During this time the hotel staff administered basic first aid and then CPR as it became necessary," he said.

Mr Hogan said the food was shared by about 20 people and no-one else became sick.

"No-one at the hotel was aware of Michelle's allergy and certainly no one could have predicted what a severe reaction she would have to such a small parcel of food."

Mr Hogan praised his staff for their efforts last night.

"One of the assistants is a trainee ambulance officer. Throughout, all maintained composure and gave Michelle every chance of survival."

He said the Wellington Point Hotel staff were in deep shock at their loss.

"Michelle was a diligent and valuable staff member, but more than that, she was a lovely young lady with a very bright future in front of her.

"We are all in shock that such a fit and fun loving person could be taken in this manner and at this early stage in her life."

Police said the death was not considered suspicious and would now be handed over to the state coroner for investigation.

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