

Hotel failed to warn us that we were poisoned

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VICTIMS of food poisoning at InterContinental Adelaide are angry the hotel did not release a public warning that guests had fallen ill with salmonella after eating at the venue.

However, hotel officials say they followed protocol by referring the situation to Adelaide City Council, which resulted in ongoing investigations by the council and SA Health to determine the source.

The number of people struck down with salmonella as a result of an unknown

source in the hotel's breakfast buffet on Sunday, July 31, continues to rise.

The latest toll from SA Health reveals 38 cases, including 15 hospitalisations.

A 54-year-old woman told *The Advertiser* she was "angry" the hotel did not inform guests about the issue until it was revealed in the *Sunday Mail*.

"They (the InterContinental) should have come out and said something," she said.

"They knew earlier on that all this was happening and we were all just left in the dark."

The woman has contacted law firm Duncan Basheer Hannon and is seeking com-

Worse than childbirth, says salmonella victim

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES
The Advertiser yesterday.

pensation, along with other guests who ate at the hotel that day.

"I still can't keep anything in my stomach — I've never felt so sick in my life," she said.

"I knew it was more than gastro — I had diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach cramps and shocking pain."

The woman said she was forced to go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's emergency department where she re-

ceived four bags of fluid due to dehydration.

Testing confirmed salmonella poisoning.

Another guest, who stayed at the hotel but lives in Melbourne, said she had been "in and out of hospital from this outbreak since Monday".

Other guests said they were forced to take time off work and were not fully recovered.

InterContinental Adelaide general manager Colin McCandless said the hotel followed protocol.

"We don't want to go out there and cause any panic — as soon as we began to realise we were receiving inquiries, we

escalated it immediately to the Adelaide City Council," he said.

"We were on the front foot to initiate all of this.

"Guests who have proactively reached out to us, we have remained in very, very close contact."

SA Health chief medical officer Professor Paddy Phillips said there is no ongoing health risk.

"As demonstrated by numerous public health warnings we have issued over the past year ... any ongoing public health threat ... from food contamination is communicated publicly by SA Health," he said.