

Questions taken on notice by Associate Professor Anthony Schembri

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Were the pharmacists then alerted to the broader concerns about Dr Grygiel or were they just told to monitor him as if they were monitoring any additional doctor?

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: It was raised at the head and neck MDT, the standard practice, and it was ceased back in June or July of 2015. So there was discussion at the MDT that that practice would cease. So the broader team were aware.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Sorry, Dr Grygiel's practice would cease in July 2015?

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: Yes, with off-protocol.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: How many people were at that meeting?

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: The MDT is usually a very large group.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: I am guessing that. How many people found out this pearl in June of 2015?

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: There can be up to 20 or more.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Twenty?

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: Yes.

The CHAIR: Could you take that on notice and supply the inquiry.

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: Yes.

St Vincent's response:

Please see response to Supplementary Question 6 directed to Associate Professor Gallagher. The discussion at the MDT in June was not with the full MDT group.

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM: how far back did it look?

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: My recollection is it went back a couple of years.

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM: What does a couple of years mean—two years, five years or 10 years?

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: I will have to take it on notice. I do not have that information in front of me.

St Vincent's response:

The internal investigation covered the period January 2012 to April 2015.

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM: Would you be prepared to provide that internal review to the Committee?

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: We have already provided the documentation to Professor Currow's inquiry.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: We know that. That is not what he asked.

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM: We know that, but it has not been presented to this Committee. Would you be prepared to provide that document?

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: I will have to take that on notice.

St Vincent's response:

The internal investigation was tabled by NSW Health under the Legislative Council's Standing Order 52, made on Thursday 25 February 2016, seeking the production of all documents relating to the under-dosing of chemotherapy patients. The review can be found at Annexure B, Item 7 (a)(64).

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Since 2014, since starting at St Vincent's Hospital, how many external reviews have you commissioned like this?

The CHAIR: Across the portfolio.

Associate Professor SCHEMBRI: I will have to take that on notice.

St Vincent's response:

Since 2014, the Hospital has engaged external advice more than 20 times for Root Cause Analysis reviews. Root cause analysis reviews investigate adverse events to identify what happened, why it happened and what actions are required to prevent or minimise the risk of a similar event recurring.

Questions taken on notice by Associate Professor Richard Gallagher

The Hon. WALT SECORD: How many patients did you send to Dr Grygiel after you knew there were concerns about his performance?

Associate Professor GALLAGHER: There would have been a small number of patients.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Would it have been 20 or 30?

Associate Professor GALLAGHER: Fewer than that, I think. I would have to take that on notice and look it up for you.

Associate Professor Gallagher's response:

Please see my response to Supplementary Question 14.

Associate Professor GALLAGHER: Yes, I am sure that he changed his prescribing practice. The

CHAIR: At that point in time?

Associate Professor GALLAGHER: Yes.

The CHAIR: Do you have evidence on that that you could submit to the Committee?

Associate Professor GALLAGHER: Yes. I would have to take that on notice.

Associate Professor Gallagher's response:

Please see response to Supplementary Question 38 for St Vincent's Health Australia.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: How many patients do you think you referred?

Associate Professor GALLAGHER: As I said, I would have to go and look it up. I would have to take that on notice, really, to give you an honest answer. But I guesstimate it would be somewhere around 10.

Associate Professor Gallagher's response:

Please see my response to Supplementary Question 14.