

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON OFF-PROTOCOL PRESCRIBING OF CHEMOTHERAPY
IN NSW**

Inquiry into off-protocol prescribing of chemotherapy in New South Wales

Dr Cooper's Answers to Supplementary Questions

1. *Did you ever provide St Vincent's with a statement, report or letter about Dr John Grygiel's behaviour?*

(a) If yes, to whom was that statement, letter or report provided?

I did not provide St Vincent's with a statement, report or letter about Dr John Grygiel's behaviour.

2. *Did you ever express concern about the treatment of staff including nurses and registrar doctors about Dr Grygiel's dosage?*

I am not entirely certain about what I am being asked.

If I am being asked about whether I have spoken with staff about the Dr Grygiel's prescribing practices, I am aware that the review processes and inquiries following the initial disclosures about Dr Grygiel's prescribing practices have been difficult for many staff directly and indirectly involved. I have proffered expressions of concern to many staff of St Vincent's at different times as part of a normal course pastoral care.

3. *Did you provide any evidence or statements to Dr Currow's inquiry?*

(a) If no, why not?

(b) If no, did you refuse to participate?

I did not provide any evidence or statements to Dr Currow's inquiry.

I declined the initial invitation to appear at Dr Currow's inquiry on the basis that at the time the invitation was extended there had been considerable media attention about the matter and I was concerned that I may be misrepresented in the media and further, if I was misrepresented and / or what I said was not fairly reported, there were no protections available to me under the provisions of the *Health Services Act 1997* (NSW).

I was extended a further invitation to appear at a later stage during the inquiry process. I offered to reconsider my position if Dr Currow would agree to provide me with notice of the issues and / or questions he wished to canvass with me. Dr Currow did not agree to provide questions on notice as he had not done so for others who had attended the inquiry. On that basis, I did not provide any evidence to Dr Currow's Inquiry.

4. *Do you stand by your evidence that you only found out about the issue of Dr Grygiel flat dosing in June 2015, despite Dr Grygiel's evidence to the committee that you have known since the early 2000s and that he discussed it with you on numerous occasions?*

I have no recollection of any discussion with Dr Grygiel regarding the prescribed dose of carboplatinum during the times stated and do not believe they occurred prior to this issue coming under active discussion with John from mid-2015 (other than below).

I do recall discussions regarding the choice of drug (as distinct from dose) cis platinum as opposed to carboplatinum. Whilst I found his case for equivalence between drug choice efficacy unconvincing, there was data to support the use of Carboplatinum and it is self-evidently less toxic. Ultimately, this was a decision for Dr Grygiel to make which appeared to be within the spectrum of reasonable based on the available evidence.

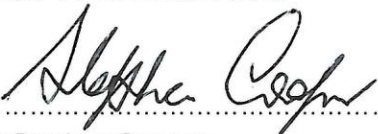
Over the years Dr Grygiel wrote many hundreds of letters to me on patient care. I do not believe any of these articulate or contextualise his dosing rationale for carboplatinum.

I do recall explicitly asking Dr Grygiel in or about May 2014 what dose he was prescribing so as to advise another medical oncologist at another facility for a patient I was referring to her for concurrent chemotherapy / radiotherapy. I have a clear recollection of Dr Grygiel advising an AUC of 2. This advice was subsequently proffered in my referral letter.

5. *Do you stand by your evidence that after you raised the issue of Dr Grygiel's dosing with Dr Gallagher you then went and asked Dr Grygiel about it directly in June 2015, despite Dr Grygiel's evidence to the committee that you never did so?*

Yes, I do.

Date: 25 November 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Cooper', written over a dotted line.

Dr Stephen Cooper