

SELECT COMMITTEE ON OFF-PROTOCOL PRESCRIBING OF CHEMOTHERAPY IN NSW

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

Answers are to be returned to the Committee secretariat by 27 December 2016.

HEARING: SYDNEY, TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2016

Questions for Professor David Currow, Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Institute NSW and co-leader of the section 122 inquiry

1. When did you inform the Health Minister or her office that you had discussed what you then considered an incident relating to oncology at St Vincent's Hospital with both Dr Kerry Chant and Associate Professor Anthony Schembri in November 2015?

I did not inform the Minister for Health or her office at any time that I had a conversation with Dr Kerry Chant and a subsequent conversation with Associate Professor Anthony Schembri in November 2015 about an incident relating to oncology at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst.

2. (a) Have you had discussions with anybody from NSW Health or the Health Ministers office about the possibility of a conflict of interest in you being a co-leader of the section 122 inquiry given you had received a call from Dr Chant and speaking to Associate Professor Schembri in November 2015?

No.

- (a) When did these discussions take place?

See the answer to the first question 2(a), above.

- (b) Who did these discussions occur between?

See the answer to the first question 2(a), above.

- (c) Have you received advice that your conversations with Dr Chant and Associate Professor Schembri in November 2015 did not cause a conflict of interest in you being placed on the Section 122 inquiry?

No.

3. How many doctors in the Section 122 inquiry team are medical oncologists?

As stated in its Final Report on St Vincent's Hospital, the section 122 Inquiry empanelled and received expert advice from an independent group of national experts in medical and radiation oncology, clinical pharmacology and oncology pharmacy. Three of the eight members of the Clinical Expert Panel are medical oncologists.

4. Did Dr Stephen Cooper offer to reconsider whether he would attend your inquiry if you provided him with notice of the issues and questions you wished to canvass with him?

I have read Dr Cooper's answers to the Select Committee's supplementary questions, published on the Select Committee's webpage after the hearing. The third paragraph of his response to question 3 is consistent with my recollection.

5. Did St Vincent's hospital fail to deliver any requested documentation in the process of your Section 122 inquiry?

By the time it submitted its Final Report, the Inquiry had obtained access to the documentation held by St Vincent's that it had requested.

6. Were any requested medical records unable to be found by either St Vincent's Hospital or the Western NSW Local Health District in the process of collating information for the Section 122 inquiry?

With respect to St Vincent's Hospital: no. With respect to the Western NSW Local Health District: yes.

7. How many individual patients were interviewed in the process of conducting the Section 122 inquiry?

Twenty-seven interviews were conducted with patients and/or their families.