



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON OFF-PROTOCOL PRESCRIBING OF CHEMOTHERAPY IN NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Report released

Inquiry into off-protocol prescribing of chemotherapy in NSW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12.00 pm, Thursday 18 May 2017

The Upper House committee that conducted an inquiry into the flat-dosing of chemotherapy patients in New South Wales hospitals, has released its report.

The inquiry commenced in September 2016, following confirmed reports that a number of cancer patients treated by Dr John Grygiel at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, in the Western NSW Local Health District, and at Macquarie University Hospital received off-protocol doses of chemotherapy.

The report, which focuses primarily on the response of St Vincent's Hospital to the events, found that 'St Vincent's Hospital Sydney failed to prevent and to respond effectively to the off-protocol prescribing of chemotherapy that occurred in the hospital. However, it has since taken responsibility for these failures and is addressing them appropriately.'

Committee Chair, the Hon Paul Green MLC, said: 'A key theme of our inquiry has been trust – the profound trust that cancer patients and their families place in their treating doctors and also in their hospital. Every patient must be able to trust that their doctor is acting within the bounds of reasonable care, with their consent. They must also be able to trust that if their doctor's actions are called into question, their hospital will act quickly to inform and protect them.'

'The report makes 11 recommendations to build transparency and trust in the New South Wales cancer care system, and to ensure safeguards are in place to prevent what occurred at St Vincent's Hospital from occurring elsewhere.'

'I am confident that the committee addressed its terms of reference and that our recommendations, if implemented, will further improve cancer care services across the state.' Mr Green commented.

For further information about the inquiry, please visit the committee's website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/chemotherapyinquiry

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair,
the Hon Paul Green MLC, on 0423 881 873.*