

Attachment 3 - Response to supplementary questions

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 – HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF DRUG REHABILITATION SERVICES IN REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE NEW SOUTH WALES

Supplementary questions: Professor Adrian Dunlop, Royal Australasian College of Physicians

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has consulted with members of its Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine (AChAM) Committee to produce responses to the Committee's supplementary questions.

1. Given the evidence that there is no oversight of private drug rehabilitation and/or detoxification facilities, is the Royal Australian [sic] College of Physicians aware of any accreditation or oversight scheme operating in any other state or territory?

In response to this question, we would like to clarify that private hospitals that provide withdrawal and rehabilitation services are licensed by State and Territory governments and are required to satisfy their regulatory requirements. In addition private hospitals who have contracts with private health funders are generally required to meet the accreditation standards set by the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care.. Not-for-profit organisations providing these services with partial or complete funding from government would also be subject to various levels of oversight and accreditation.

However, members of the AChAM Committee have indicated they are not aware of any accreditation or oversight scheme operating in any other State or Territory in relation to private for-profit organisations providing drug and alcohol rehabilitation services (other than where, as is the case for not-for-profit organisations above, they might receive funding from State or Territory governments and are accountable for the expenditure of those funds)

2. Is the Royal Australian [sic] College of Physicians aware of any other areas of medicine that have as little oversight as private drug rehabilitation and detoxification services facilities?

We are not aware of any other areas of medicine that have as little oversight as private drug rehabilitation and detoxification services facilities.