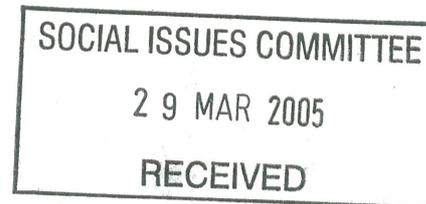


HO5/2691

The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC
Committee Chair
General Purpose Standing Committee No 2
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Ms Forsythe

On 4 March 2005 I provided a response to the General Purpose Standing Committee No 2 in regard to a question concerning the earliest listing date for a patient currently on the surgery waiting list.

I provided advice to the Committee that the patient concerned (a woman awaiting a revision of a breast reconstruction) has been regularly contacted by the treating Hospital and asked if she wished to remain on the waiting list for the particular surgeon with whom she is listed. This information is correct.

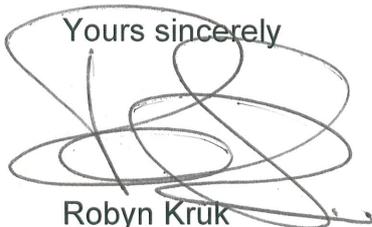
However, on advice from the Hospital I also informed the Committee that a letter had been sent to the patient offering to conduct a clinical assessment of her condition with another surgeon with a shorter waiting list. I have now been advised the correspondence was drafted but not sent.

After reviewing the draft letter the Medical Director from the Hospital asked that the patient's existing surgeon be given an opportunity to review the patient's case prior to assessment by another surgeon occurring. I am advised this occurred on 17 March 2005. The patient is to be offered treatment with her existing surgeon on 25 May 2005.

The information I provided to the Committee on 4 March 2005 was provided in good faith and I apologise to members if my response of 4 March 2005 has resulted in any misunderstanding. I would appreciate it if a correction could be made to the records of the Estimate's Committee.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely



Robyn Kruk
Director-General
22/3/05