

Submission

No 21

INQUIRY INTO THE ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

Name: Ms D. Purcell

Date Received: 29/10/2007

DIRECTOR, Ms Duffy
Joint Select Committee
Royal North Shore Hospital
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
COMMITTEES

29 OCT 2007

RECEIVED

26th October 2006

Dear Ms Duffy,

I wish to draw the attention of the Manager to the final days of my mother, Dr Del Puffett in March 2007. Aged 85 years She was brought into the Hospital in 18th March 2007 suffering from cellulitis and generalized infection. She also had some inherent chronic conditions. She was brought in through Emergency for a day or so and then sent to Aged Care Assessment Unit. She died there on 26th March 2007. Our family all thought she was recovering and would be coming home with us, as this had occurred on other occasions, we were shocked to find out that she deteriorated on her last day. She was overloaded. Did she die prematurely?

My complaint is a general complaint about Aged Care Assessment, I have no complaint about individuals. She was a private patient kept in a ward situation, The unit is understaffed and under-resourced There should be a place where older patients can get hospital treatment and then return to their homes, maybe even bypassing Emergency, but then their needs to be an Aged Care Emergency.

As the population ages the demand for this type of service will also increase, and peoples' needs are not being properly met. This unit and the rest of hospital must be properly funded.

Our family keenly misses my mother, who led a life of service in health and would hope that her death may trigger great improvement in the care of the Elderly in our Hospitals.
Thank-you for your Consideration of this matter.

Yours Sincerely

D. Purcell (Ms)



CC Professional Practices Committee RNSH
CC Kevin Rudd and Nicola Roxon Labour Party