

**Submission**

**No 67**

## **INQUIRY INTO THE ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL**

**Name:** Mrs Jenny Clarke

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I know it is too late and am desperately sorry I missed the deadline.

On 23 August this year and subsequent days we had experience with all the parts of Royal North Shore Hospital that have been under attack in the media. Emergency, neurosurgery and wards 7c and 14b.

We will always be deeply grateful for the prompt, sensitive and incredible competence of all areas. We were overwhelmed by the quality of care since it was patently obvious they were grossly understaffed and under resourced.

#### Details

At about 5:30 pm on the 23rd August 2007 our son Alexander Clarke was admitted to Emergency with advanced hydrocephalus caused by a brain tumour. We had brought him in a hire car from the city he and his fiancée lived in and where they were basically being ignored.

At around 9:00 pm he was operated on. A complete success.

There followed the most wonderful teamwork. Alex wanted for nothing in spite of incredible demands on the staff. One morning, for example, there were 8 equally incapacitated patients and 2 staff to manage both them and the more mobile patients. Another nurse took time out from her area to help.

The medical teams responded rapidly to every change in Alex's condition and were very thorough in their investigations.

Unfortunately Alex's condition turned out to be terminal, but Royal North Shore gave him back some of the most important days of his life.