

Submission

No 70

INQUIRY INTO THE ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

Name: Miss Elizabeth Hamilton

a submission to the joint Select
Committee on Royal North Shore
Hospital

I wish to make a submission
to this Select Committee in
memory of my good friend Mrs
Di Eley who died at Royal
North Shore Hospital on 31st October
2006 whilst undergoing renal
dialysis

I had known Di Eley for
21 years. She was in deteriorating
health over these years due to
the disease lupus. She was a
frequent patient at RNS.

Di Eley was a patient in
the renal dialysis unit three
times a week - Tuesday, Thursday
and Saturday. I would ring
Di on Saturday night and she
would tell me of the dramas
that she had witnessed in
the renal dialysis unit during
the week. The main issues were
the poor state and age of the
renal dialysis machines and
the frequent lack of experienced
staff to operate these machines.

2 -

Di Eley would often tell me she had to advise the staff on how to use or fix the machines etc. I presumed this was because of the length of time she had been receiving dialysis and because of her nursing experience she would from time to time mention a death or near fatal accident in the unit due to incorrect operation of the machine either by malfunction or incorrect procedure by the staff.

I became more and more concerned for ^{her} well being and on seeing a news report on Channel 9 about the need for new machines in the renal dialysis unit I contacted the hospital and was informed that the hospital was aware of the poor state of these machines and was endeavouring to raise funds to replace them. I subsequently sent funds to cover half the cost of a new machine. This occurred in the middle of last year. I don't know if a new machine was purchased or if my friend had access to this machine.

(3)

on Tuesday 31st October 2006 whilst Dr Eloy was in the renal dialysis unit I understand she suffered a cerebral haemorrhage and was unable to be revived. I do not know any further details.

I feel it is criminal neglect to use out dated and poorly maintained machines on severely ill patients, and also to have these machines operated by unqualified or poorly trained staff.

Elizabeth Hamilton (Miss)

3 pages