

**INQUIRY INTO OFF-PROTOCOL PRESCRIBING OF  
CHEMOTHERAPY IN NSW**

**Name:** Mr John Ayliffe  
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Partially  
Confidential

John Stephen Ayliffe

SUBMISSION TO THE NSW PARLIAMENT  
CHEMOTHERAPY INQUIRY

In 2006 and after a lengthy (4 and a half hour) operation to remove some 30% of my liver (a secondary cancer that involved a re-section) and the primary cancer from my small intestine (a second re-section) it was found I had Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

the Surgeon, assured me there was a very good chance that I could be cured. He introduced me to his colleague, Dr Kiran Phadke, who set out a path that had me free of cancer after 12 months. Three years later, Dr Phadke released me from his specialist care. The cancer has not returned.

I cannot speak highly enough of the expertise both doctors demonstrated and the Oncology Unit of St George Hospital is also to be commended for their care and attention to detail every step of the way.

I make the following KEY POINTS:

- I would be 7 or 8 months undergoing chemotherapy.
- An earlier experience with prostate cancer had taught me that chemotherapy is not an exact science; every patient is different and there would be a degree of experimentation both with the dosages and types of chemo prescribed.
- I had learnt to "trust the doctors" and had the utmost faith in both Professor and Dr Phadke, who were working together to make me well.
- It was explained that each day of treatment - in the Oncology Unit at St George Hospital - would involve a number of different substances and types of chemo drugs, a combination of which would hopefully provide the cure.

- I was otherwise in robust health at the time, having been accustomed to exercise every day, and had run a number of marathons.
- Due to my general fitness Dr Phadke suggested we begin the treatment with high dosages and it took two or three weeks to get the balance right.
- Twelve months later I was thought to be cured and another two years saw Dr Phadke say he was happy for me to return to the care of my GP, and annual check-ups.
- I am now 73 and still free of cancer; and due largely to the good doctors and nurses at St George Hospital.
- I have learnt that the path to curing cancer is not an exact science. There will always be risks.
- The chance of being cured requires a degree of bravery as well as trust on the part of both specialist and patient.