

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

**Name:** Mrs Joy Packer

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Dear Select Committee Members

My husband, Gordon Packer, was a public patient of Dr Phadke for 2 years before his demise in March 2006 from bowel cancer.

Dr Phadke had explained the poor prognosis, the choice of treatment and side-effects. Gordon chose chemotherapy.

We enjoyed 2 years of travelling interstate between treatments at Gordon's request and he did all the driving. Our quality of life was optimal until Dr Phadke was unable to offer further treatment and gave us the choice of more aggressive therapy with another Oncologist. My husband chose further treatment which did not auger well.

For the 2 years under his care I thank Dr Phadke. I did not question his judgement regarding drug dosage and trusted his integrity. Any questions I did have, I asked him and the replies were always more than satisfactory. I knew of his work at both Sydney Hospital and St George Hospital where I worked as a Registered Nurse.

I am ashamed to be part of a society that publicly humiliates and ruins the career and family life of a Specialist of Dr Phadke's standing and experience. Surely the **drug dosage prescribed is specific for the individual**. Isn't that one of the reasons we have Specialists? What a fine line they have to tread to **manage the disease and minimise side-effects**. I have nothing but contempt for the agitators.

Yours sincerely

Joy Packer, RN, RNM, ADNE (CCHS), B. Soc. Sc (UNE), MHP (UNSW)