

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

**Name:** Mr Neville Hatton

**Date received:** 19 October 2016

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Partially  
Confidential

The Director,  
Select Committee on Off-Protocol  
Prescribing of Chemotherapy in NSW,  
**Parliament House,**  
Macquarie St,  
**SYDNEY**  
NSW 2000

RECEIVED

19 OCT 2016

SELECT COMMITTEE

**Submission in Support of Oncologist Dr Kiran Phadke**

Following key-hole surgery for bowel cancer undertaken by Dr [redacted] in December 2012, I was referred to Dr Phadke because there were traces of the cancer in the remaining nodes. He explained that in about half such cases left untreated the cancer would redevelop, and recommended a series of monthly infusions of chemo, along with daily pills. I understood that the chemicals used for treatment were highly poisonous, being designed to kill off remaining cancer cells, with possible nasty side effects, including likely damage to nerves in the hands and feet, some nausea and also fatigue.

The staff carrying out my treatment in the **Oncology Clinic at Sutherland Hospital** from March until August 2013, were thorough, positive and very careful in the way they administered the infusions, explaining what was happening, and checking each time on any symptoms developing as a result of the treatment. At the end of each session, Dr Phadke would also interview me, paying particular attention to any developing side effects.

At the fifth infusion session in May, staff members were concerned about excessive swelling in my ankles, especially the left one. As well, the treatment was leaving me particularly tired and lacking in energy, though thankfully throughout I suffered no nausea. Before starting the infusion, they called in Dr Phadke who recommended we proceed with the treatment that day, but then take a one month break. Before the final infusions, he made an appointment, reviewed both the blood tests and my symptoms, and decided on reduced dosages for the final sessions.

By the end of my course of treatment, the swelling and discomfort in my ankles had reduced, though as indicated initially I suffered from a loss of feeling in my fingers, and especially in my feet, (to the point where I can no longer play the organ, though thankfully I do continue to play the piano and key-boards as well as before). Dr Phadke continued to monitor my progress for the next 18 months or so, assessing my progress carefully and providing reassurance with regard to the ongoing side effects of the chemotherapy I had undertaken. He was honest and direct in his dealings with me, and encouraging in his comments and suggestions. Regular tests since have revealed no traces of the bowel cancer.

From my point of view, I consider Dr Phadke's treatment to have been entirely appropriate for my case, including the pause taken in the administration of the chemotherapy regime, along with the subsequent reduction of dosage strength. Everything he recommended was based on careful assessment of my symptoms and my responses as an individual to the chemo drugs being administered. His manner with my wife and myself in interviews was at all times both highly professional and personalised.

(Neville Hatton)

18<sup>th</sup> October, 2016