

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

Name: Ms Ruth Irwin
Date received: 18 October 2016

Partially
Confidential

I am Ruth Irwin.

In 1997 I was working at The Sutherland Hospital as a Nursing Sister on 4 west ward. I became ill with a lump under my right arm and a low grade temperature. After ultra sound examination I was admitted to Kareena Hospital on IV antibiotics for about a week. Dr [redacted] was my admitting Dr. Suspecting something sinister he did a biopsy and diagnosed Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Dr Phadke came to see me immediately and further x-rays and chemotherapy started about a week later.

Treatment started 4th July 1997 and continued until December. Always blood tests were taken after each cycle of chemo. I was told that if the blood tests were not favourable the treatment would be adjusted. Once I mentioned that I had lost the feeling in my finger tips, so they cut back on one of drugs in the chemo given to me.

I remember my first IV chemo treatment. The chemotherapy was given in the 4west ward where I worked in Sutherland hospital. A party was being held that day. Dr Phadke was on the ward and asked Sister [redacted] if I had received my first IV therapy. He was happy to learn that I had had the first treatment and that all had gone well. He was a very caring Doctor.

Dr Phadke spoke to staff about how the Drs held conferences over the treatment of difficult cancers. It was good to hear this. Such burdens carried by one person would ^{be} soul destroying over time.

I am in contact with other patients who have been treated by him and are delighted with his care, treatment and the final result, as I am. I am now 82 years old. Playing 18 holes of golf...and walking all the way at Woollooware Golf Course. + Kareela Golf Course.

Sincerely, Ruth Irwin

13.10.16

For chemotherapyinquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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SELECT COMMITTEE