

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 24 October 2016

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Partially  
Confidential



reference to cost. continued to receive oncology services from RPA until he died 18 months later.

and I believed that the treatment he received at RPA successfully gave him a chance to extend his life. Similar options were not offered by John Grygiel.

### ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

1. was not under-dosed. He was denied chemotherapy treatment that he was readily able to receive elsewhere.
2. John Grygiel's demeanour was aloof and without compassion. We interpreted his comments as saying: "You have a cancer we are not interested in treating. You are going to die anyway, so we won't waste any money actively treating your cancer. We wish to spare our resources for those patients we think might survive or be of special interest. Bad luck". was devastated by the brutality of the comments, and was relieved not to be treated further by him.
3. was not given any advice about how he could receive the treatment elsewhere. We weren't told the treatment involved Interferon, or any other information that might have helped as treatment. John Grygiel delivered his verdict with no opportunity for appeal. We weren't given an opportunity to even "pay our way" by purchasing Interferon privately.
4. We were grateful and happy to receive treatment to RPA. We believed it extended life. However as a very sick patient he had to travel across Sydney regularly to attend treatment and appointments. St Vincents Hospital is only five bus stops down Oxford Street. We lived in Paddington within easy walking distance to the Paddington Town Hall bus stop. His health and well-being would have been better served if the same treatment were available locally at St Vincents Hospital.
5. and I were realistic, and knew that he would die. However as a younger patient wanted to prolong his life to be with his children. He was a chemist who wanted to use his condition to contribute to research by going on drug trials. These options were given freely at RPH. However John Grygiel however simply "wrote him off". This is not the quality of care and compassion I had expected from St Vincents Hospital.

THANK YOU for the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry. I hope this helps improve the standard of care all cancer patients receive in future.