

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

**Name:** Mr Matthew Fitzgerald

**Date received:** 24 October 2016

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I, Matthew Fitzgerald, son of the late Neil Fitzgerald (deceased 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2014), representative for Keren Fitzgerald (widower) and Renee McMahon (daughter), submit the following statement to the select committee inquiry into off protocol prescribing of chemotherapy in NSW.

This letter is in support of Dr Kiran Phadke and his diligent cancer treatment of our father while under his care at both St George hospital and later on at Sutherland hospital.

Neil Fitzgerald was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and became a patient of Dr. Kiran Phadke in 1999. Our experience of treatment under the care of Dr. Phadke was nothing short of first class from the day of diagnosis until my Dads passing. Dr. Phadke's consultations with dad were honest, never rushed and he always ensured that our family fully understood the treatment options and outcomes during the various stages of his treatment. Dr. Phadke always took his time in answering all questions and discussing any concerns that dad or our family had in relation to the various treatments options.

Dr. Phadke's exceptional level of care enabled my father to live a fulfilled life during his 15 years of treatment. For the most part, my dad was still able to travel overseas for business and pleasure, see his children get married and enjoy his grandchildren for several years before his passing. My family owe everyday post cancer diagnosis to Dr. Phadke and his diligent and professional care. We could never repay him for this.

In November 2015 Dr. Phadke was the catalyst for a charity fundraiser organised and hosted by a company that I am a co director of, The Dynamic Flooring Group Pty Ltd. The money raised, which totalled \$52,000.00, aided ongoing patient care and comfort for all patients at Sutherland Hospital Oncology Unit. Without Dr. Phadke's efforts this amount could not have been possible.

The NSW Health Service should be privileged to have such an exceptional oncologist like Dr. Kiran Phadke. He has dedicated his entire life to providing the best treatment and ongoing care possible for the states patients.

If I can be of any further assistance to the inquiry hearing by attending at any stage, please feel free to contact me directly via the details below.

Regards

Matthew Fitzgerald