



Special Commission of Inquiry
Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals

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Ms Alison Peters
Director
Council of Social Service of NSW
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C.C. Krustice

By facsimile: (02) 9281 1968

27 March 2008

Dear Ms Peters

I refer to your letter to Commissioner Garling dated 13 March 2008, received by the Inquiry on 19 March 2008.

As you may be aware, Commissioner Garling is presently conducting public hearings in regional New South Wales. In the Commissioner's absence, I will address the matters raised in your letter.

As to your concern that the geographic distribution of hearings does not allow for public hearings in various regional centres, I advise that the itinerary for further public hearings in regional centres of NSW will be finalised in the near future. Details of the date, place and time of those hearings will be advertised on the Inquiry's website and in local newspapers.

I note your concern that the public hearings are being held on hospital grounds. It is not proposed to hold public hearings at venues other than public hospitals, unless adequate facilities cannot be provided at hospitals. With the exception of the hearing at Bathurst (which was held at the Bathurst Function and Convention Centre), the Inquiry has found the facilities for hearings at public hospitals to be adequate. It is open for people to put a written submission to the Inquiry in relation to an alternative venue for public hearings, should they wish to do so.

The intention of the public hearings is largely to obtain the views of medical, nursing and allied health officers who are working within the NSW public health system. The Inquiry regards the present arrangements for public hearings to be the appropriate model. We have noticed, in fact, that many members of the public have attended public hearings in order to observe the proceedings and/or give evidence.

In the event that your organisation is contacted by individuals who wish to put matters to the Inquiry, I would be grateful if you would indicate that the Inquiry would be pleased to receive written submissions about matters of relevance to the terms of

reference. In the event that clarification of any matters raised in submissions is required, the authors will be contacted by an Inquiry officer.

Should you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me on (02) 9374-4200.

Yours faithfully



Catherine Follent
Solicitor to the Inquiry