

Renal Unit Department
Bundaberg Health Service District
Bundaberg Base Hospital
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PM/rc

8th November, 2004

Mr Darren Keating
Director of Medical Services
Bundaberg Health Service District
Bundaberg Base Hospital
P.O. Box 34
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RE: Renal Vascular Access Surgery

Dear Darren

P67 is a young indigenous patient with end stage chronic renal failure. He was referred to the Royal Brisbane Hospital in June of this year for vascular access formation in preparation for haemodialysis. In July of this year he required initiation of haemodialysis and has been dialysing via temporary access which have developed the usual septic and technical complications requiring recurrent medical inpatient management. He has so far required four medical admissions to hospital and has been an in-patient for a total of forty-six days. I am told that the current day bed rate is \$255.00. His inpatient admissions would thus have cost the hospital in excess of \$11,500.00 so far. He currently has another temporary catheter and is still waiting for definitive access. This is not an unusual occurrence. It would have been possible to have access placed locally many months ago.

The Central Zone Renal Network has commenced sitting again and the first meeting was held on the 3rd November of this year with a zonal manager (Dan Bergan) in attendance. Vascular access was on the agenda and was discussed. There was acceptance for the idea that if a service is available locally it should be utilised. The hospital should be able to buy a service from the private sector which I understand already happens in several areas.

You would also be aware that a recent election commitment of \$33.8 million (with \$9.2 million recurrent) was made to enhance renal services in Queensland. Improvement of access surgery is in the plan and specifically funding to establish additional surgery at designated units was included. I believe that the Wide Bay should apply for such funds especially since specific projects relating to the Wide Bay area were not part of the project plans.

I have spoken to Dr Brian Thiele who would be happy to help the hospital in this regard.

I would be pleased if you could consider the above and would be happy to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

Peter J Miach
Renal Physician

cc. Peter Leck