



MEMORANDUM

To: Dr Pitre Anderson, Director of Surgery

Copies to: Dr Charles Nankivell, Staff Surgeon
 Karen Smith, Elective Surgery Coordinator
 Jenny Church, CNC Theatre
 Mr Peter Leck, District Manager / Executive Agenda
 Theatre Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

From: Dr John Wakefield
 Director of Medical Services

Subject: Endoscopy Service

Contact No: (07) 4150 2210

Dear Pitre

Thank you for your letter highlighting the continued risk for patients due to the endoscopy waiting list at Bundaberg Base Hospital.

The current budget situation does not allow the employment of the additional medical and nursing staff required without allocation of additional monies from outside the district. This is made more difficult by virtue of the fact that endoscopies are not recognised as elective surgery activity. This means that we cannot access surgical incentive fund money to address this issue.

A business case for (1) a full-time additional general surgeon (2) a four session a week visiting medical officer surgeon has been prepared and forwarded to Corporate Office in approximately March of this year - to date we have had no response. I have also indicated to the District Manager and Executive of Bundaberg Health Service District the potential adverse impact upon patients of excessive waiting times for clinics / endoscopy services. This also obviously exposes the District to significant risk from litigation.

Peter

To further enhance the District's chance of attracting recurrent funds to address this issue, I am currently accessing all available data with respect to general surgical throughput / clinic throughput / excessive waiting periods. Once this has been developed into a brief report, I will seek your advice prior to meeting with the Zonal Office on the issue.

Yours sincerely

John Wakefield

22.5.2000