

"LITA I"

Lindsay Allen

From: "Lindsay Allen" <lallen@iqconnect.net.au>
To: "Andrew Johnson" <Andrew_Johnson@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: "Reno Rossato" <Reno_Rossato@health.qld.gov.au>; <Nial_Small@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2005 10:02 PM
Subject: Re: ENT services TTH

Dear Andrew,

Who's Dr Kalavagunta? Is she or he the general ENT surgeon or the head and neck surgeon. In answer to your question about day time admissions, no I can't accept them until there is in place a registrar capable of assessing acute admissions and making management decisions without consultant advice at least initially. I met the new potential PHO today who can't work because she doesn't have a current visa and isn't sure when it will come through. I'm not particularly stressed about this Andrew because the OPD clinics now see only review patients, cancers and broken noses. Everyone else will be treading water for a long time. There is no Registrar acute clinic to see patients from ED, and there will be a trickle of elective surgery at best.

Yours sincerely

Lindsay

----- Original Message -----

From: Andrew Johnson
To: lallen@iqconnect.net.au
Cc: John Masson ; Mark Elcock ; Niall Small ; Nial_Small@health.qld.gov.au ; Reno Rossato ; Shaun Drummond ; Susan Keleher
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2005 9:24 AM
Subject: Re: ENT services TTH

Dear Lindsay,

I understand your frustration. Frankly, we are regularly frustrated by bureaucracy inherent in the system. We have offered the staff specialist position and are looking at a July start for Dr Kalavagunta. Until then, we recognise the particular stress you are under, and obviously this is exacerbated with Cameron's absence. Of course we accept that you are unable to provide daytime services in this context and will arrange for interhospital transfers to go to Brisbane or Cairns. Similarly, will ask Niall to advise the ED physicians and Mark to advise through the zone.

The question that is not covered in your email is whether you are comfortable to have patients presenting to our Ed admitted under your name, accepting that you may not be in a position to attend, except for life threatening emergencies, until after hours.

yours
Andrew

Dr Andrew Johnson
Executive Director Medical Services
Townsville Health Services District
61 7 4796 1003

>>> "Lindsay Allen" <lallen@iqconnect.net.au> 02/11/05 11:31pm >>>
Dear Andrew,

I am writing to express my disappointment at the complacency displayed by the administration of the TTH following the resignation of Andrew Swanston and the departure of two competent registrars. Predictably no suitable replacement has been found by advertising in the local media, something that apparently has to be done because of a QH "one rule applies to every circumstance" approach. Four months after his resignation the job advertisements have hopefully now been placed in the appropriate journals so that a replacement might be in post in 4-6 months time.

I do not know who is responsible for recruiting and allocating junior staff but at present the PHO has no ENT experience and seems to be employed on a day by day basis while he looks for another job. A new PHO starts next week for three days and then has three weeks leave booked. I do not know who will be taking her role.

When I enquired in November 2004 if the ENT consultant post had been advertised yet, I was told that things take time. As the saying goes, a lack of preparation and planning by someone...

create an obligation for me. Therefore I wish to notify you that as per the VMO award, I am not available for telephone consultations other than for life threatening emergencies, between the hours of 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. I take no responsibility for any management decisions made by the unsupervised junior staff during those hours and am unavailable to discuss inter-hospital transfers. I will be unable to take over the care of a patient transferred from another hospital without my involvement. It is your decision but it would seem appropriate for inter-hospital transfers required during the day be sent to Brisbane.

I also intend to invoke the conditions of the VMO award, 4.2(1)a, so that for instance there will be no consultant cover on 27/2/05.

If all of the above is unacceptable to whoever has been responsible for the mismanagement of this matter, I am happy for my outstanding long service leave to act as my period of notice and cease work forthwith.

Yours sincerely

LINDSAY ALLEN

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