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29 SEP 2005



Queensland
Government

Premier of Queensland
and Treasurer

BY:.....

Please quote: DT06/SocPol

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The Honourable Geoffrey Davies AO
Commissioner
Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry
PO Box 13147
GEORGE STREET QLD 4003

Dear Commissioner,

On 28 September 2005, you foreshadowed the findings that you were inclined to make about elective surgery waiting lists and Measured Quality reports. You noted that, since 1998, my Government has regularly published information about elective surgical waiting lists, but has not published information about "anterior lists".

Your findings illustrate that when it was elected in 1998, my Government overturned the Coalition Government's tradition of secrecy on elective surgical waiting lists and regularly published them for the first time in Queensland's history.

You have also noted that this Government determined to limit the publication of 60 Measured Quality hospital reports to managers and clinicians at those hospitals to which the information related. On the evidence before you, you consider that these decisions were not in the public interest. I will write further to you in this regard and can inform you that last week I made public all 60 of the reports in their entirety and have tabled them in Parliament.

I am prepared to act to continue my Government's record of openness and accountability. Therefore, my Government now commits to legislating to ensure that all relevant data about waiting lists and all Measured Quality Reports about individual hospitals will be reported in an annual State of Health Report. The information will be available to be accessed by all Queenslanders.

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I make this commitment with the expectation that both Mr Peter Forster's Health Systems Review and your own final report may make recommendations about other accountability, reporting and benchmarking measures that we can adopt to ensure that this Government consistently delivers the best health system possible.

I thank you for the commitment and rigour with which you have pursued the matters within your terms of reference and I look forward to receiving your final recommendations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P Beattie', written in dark ink.

**PETER BEATTIE MP
PREMIER AND TREASURER**