

Ex 402



**Queensland  
Government**

**Premier of Queensland  
and Treasurer**

**RECEIVED**  
30 SEP 2005

Please quote: AM14/SocPol/

BY:.....

**30 SEP 2005**

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

COPY

Dear Geoffrey

Please find attached a copy of a letter which I have today sent to the Honourable Stephen Robertson MP, Minister for Health, relating to concerns about the Elective Surgery Program.

Yours sincerely

**PETER BEATTIE MP  
PREMIER AND TREASURER**

**Enc**

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3224 4500**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631**  
**Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au**  
**Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au**



Please quote: AM/14/SocPO1



**Queensland**  
**Government** TN 77324

**Premier of Queensland  
and Treasurer**

**30 SEP 2005**

The Honourable Stephen Robertson MP  
Minister for Health  
GPO Box 48  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Stephen

I am very concerned about documents tendered at the Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry on 16 September 2005 relating to concerns about the Elective Surgery Program. I am specifically referring to exhibits 367 and 368 which were prepared by members of the Surgical Access Team to Dr Stable on 10 January 2001 and Dr Buckland on 30 July 2003, drawing to their attention concerns about manipulation of Program funding by some hospitals.

It would appear that no response to their serious concerns was received and, in relation to the second brief, Dr Buckland is alleged to have ordered that hard copies and electronic copies of the brief be destroyed.

I understand these documents form part of Mr Gary Walker's statement to the Inquiry in relation to the operation of the Elective Surgery Program.

Having read the briefing material in relation to the matters Mr Walker raises, I am very disturbed that a number of public hospitals appear to have been manipulating the Elective Surgery Program patient data to avoid financial penalties or incur bonuses. The end result of these practices would also appear to be that there has been a downturn in elective surgical activity, despite significant injections of dedicated funding over a long period of time.

I would appreciate your urgent assessment of this situation and advice to me. I have forwarded a copy of this letter to Commissioner Davies.

Yours sincerely

**PETER BEATTIE MP**  
**PREMIER AND TREASURER**

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3224 4500**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631**  
**Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au**  
**Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au**