

EX 474

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From: Peter Leck
To: SDLO
Date: 23/03/2005 5:47:44 pm
Subject: Letter to Editor - Bundaberg Newsmail

Hi Paul,

Dr Jay Patel has approached me requesting that a letter of support be sent to the Bundaberg Newsmail in relation to his work

He has indicated that unless such support is provided by me, his District Manager, that he will leave within 24 hours

He acknowledges the support provided so by myself, the Minister and others but wants some further backing

I'm advised that Dr Patel is the only general surgeon who will be in Bundaberg (in both the public and private sector) over the coming easter weekend. His departure at this time would be critical to service delivery

Please find attached a copy of correspondence I intend to send to the Newsmail. I have discussed the content with Zonal Manager who is in general agreement

I have wanted to keep the letter short and to the point - offering support but not getting tangled in the issues relating to individual cases

Dan - I have found only one patient letter of complaint relating to Dr Patel - from a family whose father was treated mainly by another surgeon - however it is one of the cases that were raised in the letter of complaint - so have not referred to the proposal to include statement about no letters of complaints re treatment

Peter

CC: Bergin, Dan