

Submissions

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Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry
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**SUBMISSION TO THE QUEENSLAND PUBLIC HOSPITALS
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

I refer the Commission to my submission to the Bundaberg Hospital Commission of Inquiry led by Mr Anthony Morris QC.

I wish to make only two major points.

Firstly, all of the events surrounding the appointment and work of Dr Jayant Patel relate to systemic issues affecting the entire State. Some of these I addressed in Parliament prior to the appointment of the commissions of Inquiry. The systemic failures issues that exist relate to:

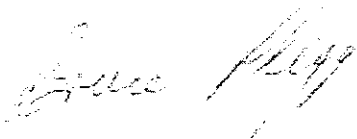
- The appointment of untested overseas trained doctors
- The elevation by 'deeming' of non-qualified doctors to be specialists
- The failure to supervise untested doctors
- The bullying of professional staff who raise concerns about the care of their patients
- The covering up of mistakes and errors by administrators and recent health ministers
- The emphasis on administrators delivering budget compliance not good patient care
- Misrepresentation of waiting times
- The failure of recent Health Ministers to properly administer the health department, and to advocate corrective measures.
- The failure of the present government to spend appropriate resources on health care
- The undue emphasis placed by the present government on having a budget surplus at the expense of the sick and injured

These are systemic problems and numerous staff and patients have come forward from a range of other Health Districts with the similar issues to the ones raised directly by the Patel scandal. It would be wrong to focus on Bundaberg as opposed to the health system more generally.

The Second matter concerns the meeting between five staff unions and the Premier in Bundaberg. (The minutes of this meeting dated 6 October 2000 were forwarded to the Commission by Email on 31 May 2005). The union representatives alerted the Premier to the potential for disaster in Bundaberg and the extremely dysfunctional health district. The meeting resulted in the reappointment of Mr Leck then on "gardening" leave. This unprecedented warning by five hospital staff unions was of such seriousness that the Premier personally travelled to Bundaberg to handle the crisis. Prompt action on this warning may have prevented the subsequent events with Doctor Patel. Unfortunately, the problems in Bundaberg were ignored.

Thank you for considering this submission which is supplementary to that which I made to Commissioner Morris.

Yours faithfully



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Member for Moggill

Enclosure