



Special Commission of Inquiry Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals

Mr Peter Garling SC has been appointed as Special Commissioner to inquire into and report on the following matters concerning the delivery of acute care services in public hospitals in NSW:

1. Any systemic or institutional issues in the delivery of acute care services in NSW public hospitals raised in submissions the Commissioner receives that he considers appropriate to inquire into and recommend any changes which should be made to address them;
2. Existing models of patient care used in the delivery of acute care services in NSW public hospitals with particular regard to case management including supervision of junior clinical staff, clinical note-taking and record-keeping and communication between health professionals involved in the care of a patient;
3. Changes which should be made to the existing models of patient care identified under paragraph 2 to improve the quality and safety of patient care in NSW public hospitals;
4. Systemic impediments to the implementation of changes recommended under paragraph 3;
5. Changes which NSW Health should make to overcome any impediments identified under paragraph 4; and
6. Changes which NSW Health should make to ensure that its workforce policies and practices support improved models of patient care.

The Commissioner is due to report on or before 31 July 2008.

The Commissioner has convened an initial public sitting of the Inquiry to take place at 10.00 am on Thursday 14 February 2008 in Court 21A, level 21, John Maddison Tower, 86-90 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

On that occasion, the Commissioner will outline the process to be followed by him, including the means by which the Commissioner will inform himself in relation to the terms of reference. Individuals or organisations who have an interest in the subject matter of the Inquiry are invited to attend that sitting in order to inform the Commissioner of their interest, and the extent of assistance which can be provided to the Inquiry.

Members of the public who have information and material which is relevant to the Inquiry are invited to provide it directly to the Executive Officer of the Inquiry at the address specified below.

Any person wishing to contact the Inquiry may do so at the address below.

Special Commission of Inquiry
Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals
PO Box A4 Sydney South 1235 NSW
Phone: (02) 9374 4200
Facsimile: (02) 9374 4222
E-mail: acutecare.inquiry@agd.nsw.gov.au

SMH. 7. 2.08 P. JBA 007