



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

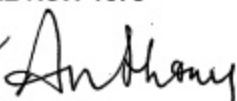
15 AUG 2013

M13/4546

The Hon Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Fair Trading
Member for Lane Cove
PO Box 524
GLADESVILLE NSW 1675

12 AUG 2013

Dear Minister


Thank you for your correspondence regarding the concerns of
and your subsequently tabled petition requesting an increase in funding for
cancer (peritonectomy) surgery at St George Hospital.

The St George Hospital Clinical Council (the Council) is responsible for deciding how many peritonectomy surgery cases are undertaken each month. Council decisions are based on close consideration of the capacity of the hospital, as well as the needs and urgency of the individual patients. The Peritonectomy Clinical review Committee determines, on a clinical basis, the most appropriate and urgent peritonectomy cases.

In addition, the St George Hospital peritonectomy unit has seen, in recent years, a growing number of surgical requests coming from both interstate and international patients. The South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (LHD) and the Council have been working with Professor David Morris, Professor of Surgery, St George Hospital, to establish a method of coping with this increased demand without disadvantaging the NSW patients.

At my request, the South Eastern Sydney LHD and the Ministry of Health are investigating all practical avenues to achieve this, including engagement with the private sector and the establishment of a nationally funded service.

Due to the issues mentioned above, a meeting is not appropriate at this time, as matters are still under consideration.

Yours sincerely


Jillian Skinner MP