



**The Hon Jillian Skinner MP**  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Medical Research



Ms Ronda Miller  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Miller

**Petition – Increase in Funding for Cancer Surgery at St George Hospital**

I refer to the petition tabled by the Hon Mike Baird MP, Member for Manly, on behalf of citizens requesting an increase in funding for cancer (peritonectomy) surgery at St George Hospital. I refer the Honourable member to my advice of 4 June 2013 in response to the same petition lodged by Ms Cherie Burton MP and the answer lodged in response to Mr Anthony Roberts MP of 23 June 2013.

Peritonectomy is highly specialised surgery with complex after care which is undertaken for a number of different clinical conditions. After initial patient consultation with the doctor, referrals are reviewed by the local Peritonectomy Clinical Review Committee, which includes Professor Morris, to determine on a clinical basis the most appropriate and urgent NSW peritonectomy cases to be undertaken.

Mr Terry Clout, Chief Executive, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, has advised that there are no budget issues associated with this surgery. St George Hospital is provided with a budget that is determined on the number of services it offers to the community and projected growth of the population. The budget is allocated based on the clinical needs of the patients in the specialities offered at the Hospital. The St George Hospital budget has increased by \$12 million this year and peritonectomy surgery will continue to be met through this allocated budget.

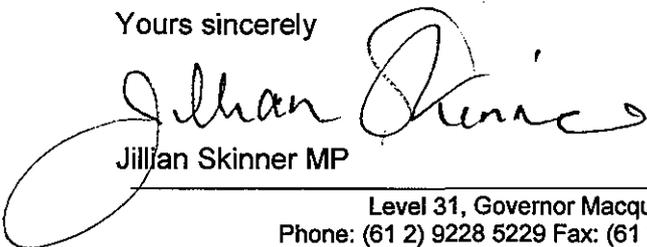
Like all hospitals, St George Hospital manages its operating theatres according to clinical priority ensuring all the specialities at the Hospital have appropriate access to theatre time. St George Hospital relies on the advice of its clinicians, who consider clinical need and appropriateness, when making decisions on the type of care and services offered to patients and the community.

Peritonectomy patients require a lengthy time in the Intensive Care Unit and this needs to be considered for each patient so that they can receive the best post-operative care. The Hospital's Clinical Council has determined that six peritonectomy surgeries for NSW, including emergency peritonectomies, can be performed each month. This decision is based on meeting the needs of all surgical patients for services provided at St George Hospital.

An additional six peritonectomy cases, currently over the benchmark waiting time on the Category 1 wait list, are being undertaken at St George Public Hospital during November and December 2013. An arrangement has been reached with St George Private Hospital to undertake some other surgical operations, which will allow the Public Hospital Intensive Care Unit to deal with these additional peritonectomy cases.

The NSW Government continues to ensure that local managers and clinicians work together to provide high quality care. I appreciate members of the community taking time to register their interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Jillian Skinner MP