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CS5/HEA027/5744/DZP Peter Dwyer

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Department of Justice and Attorney-General

21 October 2005

Mr Richard Douglas SC Senior Counsel Assisting Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry Level 9 Brisbane Magistrates Courts Building George Street BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Douglas

Commonwealth funding for elective surgery

You may recall that during the evidence of Mr Gary Walker on 29 September 2005, the Commissioner asked Mr Walker about the role of Commonwealth funding in relation to elective surgery (T 6177, 6178, 6187 and 6188). Further, during cross-examination of Mr Walker by Mr Applegarth SC (for Dr Buckland), the Commissioner suggested that presumably a document identified the exact purpose of the Commonwealth funding. Mr Applegarth noted that his instructions were different from the witness and that the matters could no doubt be ascertained.

Subsequent to that evidence, Dr Buckland's lawyers requested that my client locate any relevant documents and a person within Queensland Health to give evidence on the issue of Commonwealth funding for elective surgery, particularly in the 1995/1996 financial year.

In that regard, I now **enclose** a further statement from Mr Michael Zanco which addresses the issue in reasonably broad terms and attaches certain relevant documentation.

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I am instructed however that, given the passage of time (from 1995/96), my client has had considerable difficulty in locating documents which definitively settle the issue.

Yours faithfully

Peter Dwyer

Principal Lawyer

for Crown Solicitor

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