

**SUBMISSION TO
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE 'A'**

SUBCOMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO HEALTH SERVICES IN TASMANIA

FROM: Peter Schulze [REDACTED]
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I currently have acute leukaemia with a poor prognosis and have been receiving Chemo-therapy in Launceston for the last 7 months. In April this year I was in Launceston and accommodated in a Holyman clinic unit behind the old General Hospital and close to the new General Hospital.

On the Evening of Thursday 20th April I became very ill with extreme abdominal pain, at 11-30 pm I rang my doctor who said to get an ambulance and go the Launceston General Hospital. I rang the ambulance immediately. Despite me being at a flat kept for seriously ill patients the ambulance driver did not know where to go and arrived approximately 85 minutes later!

Upon admission to the General Hospital I was placed in an emergency bed where I was still in intense pain. No one attended me, no doctor saw me and I was not given any pain relief medication. I called out to a number of administrators and a number of nurses for a sick bag, no one responded, I vomited all over the bed! One nurse came along and told me not to make so much noise as I was disturbing the other patients! The noise was my groans of pain.

The whole place could only be described as being in a state of bedlam. There was a lot of noise with many people wandering around who were obviously not hospital staff by their scruffy dress. I was told that the use of cameras was not permitted in the Hospital.

After being in this traumatic situation for about an hour my own doctor - from the private sector turned up, he spent several hours with me and in this time was able to arrange my transfer to a private room at St Luke's Hospital where I spent the next week recovering from what seemed to have been stomach poisoning.

The importance of getting into isolation at St Luke's was that with my form of Leukaemia I have little or no immunity and contracting any infection is most likely to "take me out". In reality being in the General Hospital presented great risk to my health.

Clearly the General Hospital was totally inadequate to be able to assist or deal with patients in my state of health.

The circumstances I have outlined indicate that under **Term of Reference 3** there is insufficient funding to enable adequate and professional treatment at our General Hospitals and my submission also outlines an adverse patient outcome covered in **Term of Reference 5**.

I trust my submission assists your inquiry.

Peter Schulze

24th July 2017