



Submission No 7

Watching Brief on the War on Terrorism

Organisation: Royal Perth Hospital
Clinical Services Executive

Contact Person: Dr William Beresford
Director

Address: Level 2
'A' Block
Wellington Street Campus
PERTH WA 6000

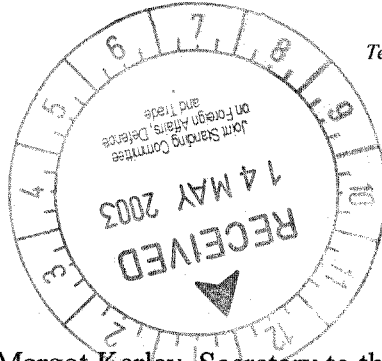
Submission: 7



Royal Perth Hospital
CLINICAL SERVICES EXECUTIVE
Level 2, 'A' Block
Wellington Street Campus
Telephone: (08) 9224 2280 Facsimile: (08) 9224 2765

MEMORANDUM

WB:HH



To: Ms Margot Kerley, Secretary to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

From: Dr William Beresford, Director of Clinical Services

Date: 6th May 2003

Subject: Response to questions

What contingency plans are in place for hospitals to deal with a mass casualty situation?

Mass casualty situations or failures of any description in any of the hospitals in Metropolitan Perth are managed through the Metropolitan Perth Areawide Business Continuity Plan (BCP). This plan encompasses 21 health facilities including both private and public hospitals. It also includes 15 "expert advisors" who would be called upon to provide assistance, such as engineering, transport and biological expertise. In the event of a mass casualty situation the expert advisor for the external disaster response would be contacted. This person would then organise the required medical teams to attend the scene from the tertiary hospitals. Concurrently the BCP coordinator would be contacting each of the 21 health facilities to advise of the problem and request that beds be made available ie by early discharge of patients, opening of closed wards and cancelling elective surgery.

How is the plan activated and by whom?

The BCP is activated by notification to the State Health Emergency Director who calls the Areawide Coordinator based at Royal Perth Hospital and request that the plan be activated. The Metropolitan emergency control centre is based at RPH and the situation is managed from there.

How would the large number of victims be transported? Can the ADF be called upon to assist under their responsibilities to provide Defence Aid to the Civil Community?

Normally in a mass casualty situation transport of victims is by St John's Ambulance. However within the BCP there is the ability to coordinate other modes of transport such as buses, hospital transport and air transport. We have been told that we could not rely upon the ADF to provide assistance therefore we do not include them in our response.



**Dr William Beresford
Director of Clinical Services RPH &
Areawide Coordinator, Metropolitan Perth Areawide BCP**