



Inquiry into Health Funding - Public Hearing ***Mt Olivet Hospital, Brisbane – 16 March 2006***

The former commissioner of the inquiry into Dr Patel and the Bundaberg Hospital along with the Australian Medical Association of Queensland will be appearing before the House of Representatives Health and Ageing Committee at Brisbane's Mt Olivet Hospital this Thursday (16 March).

The hearing, which is open to all members of the public, will be a key part of a wide-ranging federal parliamentary inquiry into health funding.

The Committee Chairman Alex Somlyay said this public hearing will "provide an opportunity to speak with Tony Morris QC about the challenges facing the health system in Queensland and give him an opportunity to put forward his view on how this system could be improved".

The Committee will also be paying particular attention to how governments are addressing shortages in the health workforce, particularly in regional areas. The following day (17 March) Committee will be holding a public hearing in Caboolture.

"The health system faces significant challenges in the future to attract and retain skilled health professionals," Mr Somlyay said.

"It is important that health funding arrangements provide the right incentives to give us the skilled and dedicated health workforce we require to look after the health needs of our ageing population."

The Committee will also talk to those representing Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) and rural and remote doctors, as well as a health academic and a local Division of General Practice.

Venue: Boardroom, Mt Olivet Hospital, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane

The program for **Thursday 16 March** is as follows:

- 9.30am Mr Tony Morris QC
- 10.45am Professor Ian Wronksi
- 11.30am Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
- 12.15pm Mr Phil Sheedy, CEO Mt Olivet Hospital
- 1.30pm Dr Ross Cartmill
- 2.15pm AMA Queensland
- 2.45pm Redcliffe – Bribie – Caboolture Division of General Practice

For media interview with the Chairman:

Please contact Mr Somlyay's office on (07) 5471 6611.

For a copy of the terms of reference and further information on making a submission:

Contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145, 0421 951 837, or email

haa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/healthfunding/index.htm>