



From: Gorkic, Ed (b2177) (Ed.Gorkic@health.wa.gov.au)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 May 2005 5:38 PM
To: Committee, HAA (REPS)

Subject: inquiry into health funding

I just don't have the time to put the necessary energy into this task but I would like to briefly propose some guiding principles.

* Health services are about a relationship between an individual and a carer and can never be effective on an institutional basis. No "body" can replace the interpersonal commitment.

* Quality health care will always be best provided as a cottage industry.

* The quality of care is entirely dependant on the quality of the provider and no process or system can circumvent that reality. Just having a tertiary degree can no longer be an automatic ticket to registration.

* The only illness that anyone needs to worry about is the last one. The "worried well" consume resources because they have been conditioned to believe that symptoms mean illness.

* Management in health is a recent phenomenon and in its ascendancy has served well for its time, but now it has become an industry in its own right and is consuming more resources than the health budget can afford. The same can be said for some of the measuring activities and concepts of population health. These are of no particular merit to the individual in need of individual care.

It may seem garbled but the inferences have a significant impact on health funding. It's all I have time for and hope it has some resonance in meaning. Sustainability of health services requires a paradigm shift in thinking. Kindest regards and best wishes for the task. Ed Gorkic