

INQUIRY INTO OBSTETRIC AND GYNAECOLOGICAL SERVICES AT KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference have been amended and for ease of reference the amended Terms of Reference are as follows:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) To consider, having regard to clinical performance indicators, whether the provision of obstetric and gynaecological services at the hospital is acceptable and appropriate for a hospital that handles the most difficult obstetric and gynaecological cases in Western Australia;
- (2) To recommend any changes to accountabilities, policies, procedures and practices that may assist in reducing the occurrence of adverse clinical outcomes;
- (3) To proceed by examining selected cases and in choosing such cases to respect the views of patients who are unwilling to be involved in such an inquiry;
- (4) To proceed with expedition;
- (5) In particular, to consider the adequacy of clinical:
 - (i) records;
 - (ii) reporting systems;
 - (iii) policies, procedures, practices; and
 - (iv) peer review.

The Inquiry is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Minister for Public Sector Management and the Minister for Health by 29 June 2001.

Should any allegations of gross carelessness, incompetence or improper or unprofessional conduct on the part of any healthcare professional come to the attention of the Inquiry, which the members of the Inquiry consider may warrant further investigation or inquiry, they are to refer such allegations to the appropriate professional or other bodies.

In these Terms of Reference and for the purposes of the Inquiry:

“Adverse clinical outcome” means a death or permanent or serious injury or incapacity which was attributable to the provision of obstetric or gynaecological services to a patient of the hospital.

“Healthcare professional” means a medical practitioner, a midwife, a nurse or other related professional.

“Patient” includes an unborn child.

“Selected cases” means

- (a) cases that in the Inquiry’s opinion illustrate, or might illustrate, any deficiencies in the hospital’s accountabilities, policies, procedures or practices; or
- (b) cases where in the Inquiry’s opinion there has been, or might have been, an adverse clinical outcome.

Dated 4 October 2000

(Douglas et al., 2000: A19-A20)