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The influence of health inquiries on clinical governance systems: A case study of the Douglas Inquiry

Heather Gluyas University of Notre Dame Australia

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2.4.14 Before December 2000, the Inquiry commenced a process to obtain a number of CDs containing KEMH e-mails covering the period, with some gaps due to missing or unreadable backups. About 55,000 e-mails were included on these CDs. They were an important source of information for the Inquiry's investigation. The e-mails expressed views, and related events, with a good deal more candour that was evident in many of the Inquiry's interviews with current and former KEMH staff members.

- 2.4.18 Over a total of 6 days between 7 and 14 December 2000, 12 Inquiry staff members attended the Hospital. They inspected and removed documents held in areas including
 - KEMH/PMH Executive;
 - Medical Administration and HR Department at the PMH site;
 - clinical care units, including Obstetric Clinical Care Unit, Gynaecology Clinical Care
 Unit and Neonatal Clinical Care Unit;
 - 4 wards;
 - 5. Theatre;
 - 6. Anaesthetic Department;
 - 7. Delivery Suite;
 - Emergency Centre;
 - 9. Clinics;
 - 10. Family Birth Centre;
 - 11. After Hours Nurse Managers;
 - 12. Research Fellow's rooms;
 - 13. Department of Nursing and Midwifery Education and Research;
 - 14. Postgraduate Education;
 - 15. Library;
 - A Block/Storeroom;
 - B Block basement;
 - 18. Agnes Walsh House basement; and
 - Compustor off-site records.

2.4.19 The documents included electronic and hard copies of -

- ward documents, such as communication books and ward registers;
- accident/incident files;
- statistical data;
- 4. quality assurance documentation;
- general correspondence files;
- rosters and diaries;
- 7. personnel files;
- recruitment, selection and performance management documentation; and
- 9 committee minutes.
- 2.4.20 Over the 6-day period, 556 boxes of documents, estimated to comprise over 800,000 pages, were removed and taken to the Inquiry's offices.

(iii) Documents from other agencies

- 2.4.21 The Inquiry also sought and obtained a wide range of information and documentation from other agencies including --
 - Australian College of Midwives;
 - 2. Australian Council of Healthcare Services;
 - Australian Patient Safety Foundation;
 - Coroners Court;
 - 5. Curtin University, School of Nursing and Midwifery;
 - Edith Cowan University, School of Nursing and Public Health;
 - Health Department of Western Australia;
 - 8. Medical Council;
 - Metropolitan Health Service Board;
 - 10. National Health Medical Research Council;
 - 11. Nurses Board of Western Australia;
 - 12. Office of Health Review;
 - Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists;
 - 14. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons; and
 - 15. Women's Hospitals Australasia.

(Douglas et al, 2000 76-74)