

Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

Statement of Prof Stephen Twigg

Name: Prof Stephen Twigg

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Occupation: Head of Department of Endocrinology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney Local Health District

Head of Central Clinical School in Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give to the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. This statement is provided in response to a letter of 23 May 2024 issued to the Crown Solicitor's Office and addresses the topics set out in that letter relevant to my role.

A. INTRODUCTION

3. My name is Prof Stephen Twigg. I am the Head of Department Endocrinology at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (**RPAH**) at Sydney Local Health District (**SLHD**), and Head of Central Clinical School (**CCS**) in Sydney Medical School (**SMS**), The University of Sydney. A copy of my summary curriculum vitae is exhibited to this statement (**MOH.0010.0268.0001**). As described on page 3, I was the NSW Health Agency for Clinical Innovation (**ACI**) Chair in Endocrinology from 2011-2018.
4. In my role as Head of CCS in SMS, I am responsible for placement of medical students at RPAH, and aspects of their training and support. I do not have any involvement with nursing or allied health students, nor am I responsible for the training of medical interns or resident doctors in that role.
5. In my role as a Head of RPA, Hospital Department of Endocrinology (**the Department**), I have managerial responsibility for the Department which functions in a Clinical Stream framework, which includes medical consultant staff performance reviews and rosters, the Endocrinology advanced trainee supervision, and leadership in maintaining standards of quality care and clinical activity across the clinical centres and services within the Department.

B. CENTRAL CLINICAL SCHOOL PLACEMENTS WITHIN RPAH

6. There are currently approximately 220 medical students from CCS on clinical placement, mainly in RPAH. There are also around 40 students in RPAH from other Universities within Australia and from overseas, organised through SMS which places blocks of elective placements across some months in each year into RPAH.
7. CCS is a 4 year program in SMS, with around 50-60 students in each year. Each year involves active teaching in a hospital, introduced gradually from year 1, covering all clinical settings and disciplines. Students attend a mixture of lectures, classroom tutorials, tutorials on the ward, clinical simulations and hands on experiences. They can focus on their areas of interest, to an extent, through their elective placements in years 2, 3 and 4.
8. The main aim is for our medical students to be ready to work as an intern in a supervised role when they complete their medical degree. This includes in areas of sound clinical assessment and management, undertaking clinical care in a health care team, performing relevant clinical procedures, and realising professionalism in health care throughout.
9. Some CCS students train for limited periods in rural and regional areas especially under rural SMS Clinical Schools, such as Dubbo, Lismore, and Broken Hill and related public Hospitals, or in primary care rural placements.

C. COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

10. I have little involvement with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (**RACP**) in Endocrinology, other than in my role as Head of Department, which involves ensuring that the number of our accredited advanced trainee positions is approved every five years.
11. We have three accredited endocrinologist advanced trainees in our Department. If we were able to attract funding for a fourth, that would be optimal for service needs and to realise training opportunities. I do not foresee that RACP accreditation would be a barrier to a fourth accredited advanced training position, as the RACP has indicated in recent years that our site in RPAH Endocrinology Department could readily train a fourth advanced trainee based on availability of clinics and specialist supervisors.

Stephen Twigg

Prof Stephen Twigg

10/07/2024

Date

Jamie Brown

Witness:

11/07/2024

Date