

The Victorian Surgical Consultative Council

Chairman: Jonathan Rush, FRACS
Level 7, 589 Collins Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
Tel: (03) 9616 1382
Fax: 1300 138 933
Website: www.health.vic.gov.au/vscc

29 September 2004

Dr Robert Hall
Director Public Health and Chief Health Officer
Public Health
Department of Human Services
18/120 Spencer Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Dr Hall,

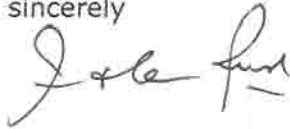
Re: Review of Health Act 1958

The Victorian Surgical Consultative Council considered the discussion paper (August 2004) "Review of the Health Act 1958" and in particular those sections relating to Consultative Councils (5.3).

1. There were no major concerns about the review apart from confidentiality issues. Council understands that "a detailed outline of these issues will be contained in a separate Department of Human Services discussion paper that will examine confidentiality and privilege laws designed to foster health care quality improvement".
2. It is important that Councils be given the power to discuss particular cases with one another.
3. The Victorian Surgical Consultative Council believes that Consultative Councils be given the power to require notification of specified incidents or to require information relevant to the Council's functions to be provided.
4. The Victorian Surgical Consultative Council was happy that the four provisions listed under 24 regarding Consultative Councils be consolidated in the new act.
5. With regard to issues for comment number 25 the VSCC would require that there is compulsory notification of all surgical deaths by health care facilities as well as requiring to notify certain specified adverse incidents.
6. Re issues for comment number 26.
Yes the new act should contain more specific provisions requiring reporting to Consultative Council on specified incidents.

The Council however would contend that reporting to Council by medical practitioners should remain voluntary at this stage.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Rush', written in a cursive style.

JONATHAN RUSH, FRACS

CHAIRMAN

THE VICTORIAN SURGICAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL