

UNITED VOICE QLD

*Formerly the Liquor, Hospitality
& Miscellaneous Union (LHMU)*

ABN: 69 844 574 256

Gary Bullock Branch Secretary

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Nev Swan Branch President

Tel. (07) 3291 4600

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Ref: MDB; ml
2 June 2011

Charles Woodward
Cairns COUCH Limited
Committee for Oncology Unit for Cairns Hospital
PO Box 1230
CAIRNS QLD 4870



Dear Mr. Woodward,

RE: Radiation Oncology Services Throughout Queensland

Thank you for meeting with me earlier this year to discuss our serious concerns about the inadequacy of plans for the delivery of safe and sustainable statewide cancer treatment services that keep pace with the needs of all communities, not just those in the south east of the State.

As you know, United Voice launched the campaign “QHealth Not for Tender”, calling on the Health minister to intervene in the privatization of oncology services because our members, employed in front line service delivery roles hold very clear views including:

- Support for the provision of local cancer therapy services in regional Queensland;
- There should not be delays to the provision of cancer therapy services;
- Privatisation of cancer therapy services has failed to deliver in the past;
- Support for cancer therapy services being delivered by the public sector because it is the only way to control and maintain service standards;
- The Queensland Government can resolve these problems without delaying these services by talking with United Voice about a resolution.

Through the pressure of the campaign which was joined by health workers and members of unions across Queensland, the Health Minister did intervene in an attempt to seek a solution. The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission also

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involved and United Voice and Queensland Health are currently finalising negotiations on a way forward. Importantly this outcome, achieved through our Union campaign will see:

- Cairns oncology workers being guaranteed the wages, conditions, training and development that every other QHealth oncology worker gets;
- A process to properly plan for oncology service delivery needs across the State, matched with appropriate workforce development strategies;
- Cancer services delivered on time to regional communities.

As disappointed as we were that your organisation was unable to support our campaign, we are sure that you will be very supportive of these outcomes. As we work collaboratively with QHealth to identify and meet the future of needs of Queenslanders we look forward to further opportunities to join with community organisations working to assist regional Queenslanders obtain fair and equitable access to vital, quality and sustainable health services.

Yours Sincerely,

Gary Bullock
Branch Secretary

CC: United Voice members & Queensland Unions