





The Vascular Biology Unit

29/9/05

Dear Peter

Re Inquiry into health funding

Thank you for your letter regarding the above. In my capacity as Associate Professor in Surgery and Vascular Surgeon I work at both the The Townsville Hospital and The Mater. I have previously worked in Adelaide and a number of different hospitals in the UK. There a number of issues facing any public hospital but I would like to draw attention to a few related to the provision of excellence in the public sector. Clearly an important issue for many public hospitals and particularly TTH is the acquisition and retention of high quality personnel (doctors and ancillary staff). This is particularly the case with interventional disciplines where the remuneration from the private sector is markedly greater. One area that I believe is fundamental to improving this issue of attracting and retaining high quality staff is the funding for research, audit and administration. From my experience elsewhere I have found these areas much more heavily supported. I understand when the hospital rebuilding was planned there was plan for a research building or section which did not eventually come to pass due to funding shortages. The encouragement of research has a large number of benefits:

1. Attracting high quality personnel who will see the advantage of working at a centre with facilities for innovative work.
2. The ability of junior doctors to undertake research projects and encouragement to return to the region.
3. The ability to carry out high quality audit to improve services.
4. The development of new therapies to improve patient care that is relevant locally.
5. Enhancement of the reputation of the local medical services.

Increased funding is needed to establish a research building with facilities for wet laboratories, clinical trials co-ordination, and the required staff and administration to ensure its success.

I realize there are many pressures on the public sector at this time but feel it important to highlight the value academic medicine can potentially play.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Golledge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Golledge

Associate Professor of Surgery

James Cook University, The Townsville Hospital & The Mater