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Your ref: 11.1.5.2

10 February 2012

Lindy Nelson-Carr MP  
Chair, Health and Disability Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane  
QLD 4000

Dear Ms Nelson-Carr,

**Re: Inquiry into Severe Substance Dependence**

Thank you for the invitation, which was relayed to me by the General Manager of Pine Rivers Private Hospital, Ms. Teena Pisarev, to prepare a submission to the Health and Disabilities Committee in relation to its inquiry into involuntary detoxification and rehabilitation of people with severe substance dependence. I was preparing a submission along these lines when I received your further letter of 3 February 2012 noting the expected dissolution of Parliament this month.

In light of this development, I thought the most useful response on my part would be to:

- (1) provide to the Committee a PowerPoint presentation on civil compulsory treatment from a New South Wales perspective, which I presented in February last year;
- (2) offer to prepare a submission to any subsequent inquiry that the reconstituted Health and Disabilities Committee might establish; and
- (3) alert the Committee (and any successor) to the publication on compulsory treatment that was prepared five years ago by the Australian National Council on Drugs (of which I was a member from 2001 to 2007).

I have significant experience of committal of persons under the Inebriates Act (1912) of New South Wales and also of discussing with patients and relatives the possible use of that Act's provisions in their own particular situations. In the time that I have been in practice in Queensland no such legislation has been available following repeal of the equivalent legislation some decades ago.

Yours sincerely

**J B SAUNDERS**  
**Professor and Consultant Physician in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine**

c.c. Ms. T. Pisarev, General Manager, Pine Rivers Private Hospital