

Queensland Health

**Northern Area Health Service**

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File Ref: AF:nw061207

Mr Charles Woodward  
Cairns COUCH Ltd  
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Dear Charles

I am writing to advise you that the independent 'Review of Cytotoxic Chemotherapy to Cairns Base Hospital' has been completed and its recommendations considered by the Cairns and Hinterland Health Service District including the oncology team.

The review did not recommend an 'in-house' chemotherapy production facility. On consideration of the costs, it was found not to be viable based on current workload, costs of staffing, quality assurance and risk issues combined with a "lack of compelling evidence of both wastage and problems with commercial supply."

The review made a number of recommendations to improve efficiency and minimise wastage in the existing system. Some of these are procedural and have already been implemented while further information is being sought about others, such as the introduction of medical oncology information management software to assist with prescribing, ordering, scheduling and administering of chemotherapy.

As well as radiation oncology, chemotherapy services will form a key element in planning for an integrated cancer service in the Cairns region. I was pleased to hear that you have accepted an invitation to be part of the Cairns Cancer Planning Group.

Once again thank you for your commitment and I look forward to seeing you again when the planning group meet in the new year.

Should you require further information, you can contact me on telephone (07) 4050 3640.

Yours sincerely



Alison Faigniez

**Asst. General Manager**

**Northern Area Health Service**

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