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This letter sent to the following:-

G.H. Walker, Esq., Regional Director, Central Western Region  
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R. Crux, Esq., Regional Director, Illawarra Region.  
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Mr. J. Manley, Acting Regional Director, Southern Metro. Region.  
Dr. C. Scharf, Regional Director, Western Metropolitan Region.

INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE OF  
PATIENTS BY STAFF - FIFTH SCHEDULE HOSPITALS.

The Commission's attention has recently been drawn to a number of cases where claims have been made by patients alleging assault or abuse by staff members in which there has been insufficient, or no other evidence to support such accusations.

While investigations at the hospital level have been unable to substantiate such claims the Commission is concerned that in some instances there has appeared to be an element of truth in the patients' claims.

The Commission views such allegations with the utmost seriousness and is most anxious that all such claims are fully investigated with all avenues exhausted to ascertain the truth of such matters.

The Commission does not wish to level criticism at the manner in which the hospital authorities have conducted such inquiries in the past, but is mindful of the damage which could be caused to hospitals and their staff should appropriate action not be taken and the incident be aired in the media.

Having regard to the above it is requested that whenever such a claim is made by a patient or on behalf of a patient then joint investigation is to be immediately commenced by the Medical Superintendent and the Deputy Regional Director. Each of these officers is to be present at the interviews and their recommendations are to be forwarded to the Regional Director for consideration. Should the Deputy Regional Director not be available the Regional Director or Assistant Regional Director may take his/her place. Medical Superintendents should be advised of this variation in procedures.

Yours sincerely,

Roderick McEwin  
Chairman

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1. Secretary Roderick McEwin 30/10
  2. Chamberlain 3/11
  3. Industrial Relations Dept  
File #

preparation of annexes  
& posting of letters please  
RMC 3/11