

6<sup>th</sup> November 2016

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Professor Ron Paterson  
Chaperone Review  
C/- National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner  
GPO Box 2630  
Melbourne Victoria 3001

Dear Professor Paterson

I am writing this letter to you in the hope that you will accept it as part of your review as I was unaware of the review until after the response closing date.

I am writing on behalf of my dad, [REDACTED] (as per his request) as he is a victim at the hands of [REDACTED] and the chaperone systems failure to protect him.

I am of the understanding that the current procedure when a chaperone is involved is that the doctor is required to both advise patients of the requirement, as well as have visible signage explaining this. Clearly this current system falls short because although the chaperone was in the room at the time of my dad's consultations at which I was also present, we were not advised the reason for her presence (it was just brushed off by [REDACTED]) and there was definitely no signage explaining her presence either.

[REDACTED] was still able to act inappropriately towards my dad during the consultations the chaperone was present at, covering it with doctor/medical reasons. Dad had full faith and trust in his doctor and had no reason to believe he would be doing anything not required or inappropriate therefore although he thought what was happening was strange tried to ignore it.

My other concern is who is meant to be enforcing the current chaperone system, as it is clearly not strict enough therefore not enforced strongly enough.

I understand that situations like this are very sensitive as not all doctors accused are guilty. There needs to be a system in place that protects both doctors and patients. Some examples of what I believe would be suitable have been outlined below.

1. A document explaining that a chaperone is required to be in the consultation should be given to the patient to read and sign. This does not need to explain the reason for the chaperone as long as further precautions are taking place.
2. The chaperone should be required to be not only in the consultation but also be going behind any privacy screens etc for any physical examinations taking place. This ensures the doctor and patient is never left alone together, protecting them both.

3. These precautions then need to be strictly followed with strong penalties if they are not. This can be done by the chaperone being employed by the medical board and being required to report back.

As you are already aware this is such an important issue and I believe it is very obvious that something needs to change. This has affected our family immensely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. All because a man who happened to be his doctor and somebody he completely trusted destroyed his trust and a system that should have protected him has not.

I look forward to reading your findings in early 2017

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]