



FILE NOTE			
Matter name:	St Vincent's Private Hospital notification N93645		
ACCC parties	Monica Bourke		
Other parties	Dr Roger Levy		
		Date	27/11/2008

Dr Levy provided an oral submission with respect to the notification lodged by St Vincent's Private Hospital. Dr Levy made the following comments:

- generally surgeons choose to work with a particular anaesthetist, however at St Vincent's Private Hospital anaesthetists are allocated to a surgical list by the medical practice group that runs the Anaesthetic Department. As a consequence of this anticompetitive system, patients do not necessarily get the most appropriate or experienced anaesthetist.
- Dr Levy notes that the notified conduct relates only to the anaesthetic department of the Private Hospital and does not extend to surgeons. Dr Levy considers that St Vincent Private Hospital's anaesthetic department operates as a "closed shop" and submits that the notification entrenches this.
- Dr Levy notes that an anaesthetist can only become accredited at St Vincent's Public Hospital where the Public Hospital has a vacancy. If there are no vacancies at the Public Hospital, anaesthetists will also have a difficult time becoming accredited at St Vincent's Private Hospital as a result of the notified conduct.
- Dr Levy notes that anaesthetists service hospitals all over the city and by becoming accredited at both St Vincent's Private and Public Hospitals the anaesthetist would still be likely to be able to service other hospitals.
- Dr Levy notes that some surgeons are unhappy that they cannot bring their chosen anaesthetist to work with them in the Private Hospital.
- Dr Levy submits that the anaesthetic department is run by a single medical practice group and is in a position to control patient's anaesthetic fees at the hospital without competition from other anaesthetists.