



**The Hon Jillian Skinner MP**  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Medical Research

M11/6015

01 DEC 2011

Thank you for your letter regarding infant circumcision. I appreciate that the circumcision of your son against your will must have caused you distress.

Regarding your query about whether NSW Health policy is in line with correspondence sent to you from the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing, I can confirm that her observations on infant male circumcision provide an acceptable overview of legal and medical complexities which are consistent with NSW Health policy. I note that Minister Roxon has not, however, commented on the Commonwealth Family Law provisions which allow individual parental consent to be provided.

I understand that you wrote to the former NSW Premier in September 2010, and that a response was sent to you by the former Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Dr Andrew McDonald in November 2010 specifically regarding your questions about parental consent in medical procedures. I am advised that the information he provided regarding consent is correct and consistent with current policy.

NSW Health policy on the circumcision of infant males follows the policy statement of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. I attach a copy, alternatively it can be viewed at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/PD/2005/PD2005\\_330.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/PD/2005/PD2005_330.html)

As you are aware, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians states that there is no medical indication for routine infant male circumcision in Australia. This statement is supported by a robust review of relevant evidence. The policy statement sets out the medical indications for circumcision, as summarised by Minister Roxon in her correspondence. If there is a medical need, then circumcisions may be undertaken in a NSW Public Hospital. In other circumstances, NSW Health policy is clear that circumcisions are in a class of procedure that should not be performed in NSW public hospitals. This policy can be viewed on page 8 at: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2009/pdf/PD2009\\_018.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2009/pdf/PD2009_018.pdf),

I assure you that both the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and NSW Health policy states that it is unacceptable practice to perform this operation without appropriate anaesthesia, and post operative analgesia.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention, I trust that this letter has helped to further address your concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jillian Skinner".

Jillian Skinner MP