

**RESPONSE OF J.D. WISHEART TO THE WRITTEN STATEMENT OF
HELEN VEGODA, DATED 7TH JULY, 1999**

I would like to comment, purely for the purposes of clarification, on Mrs Vegoda's evidence on Issue L6, B and C on page 9.

1. B. Morbidity, especially neurological deficit

Line P; "I cannot recall either surgeon routinely mentioning morbidity or neurological deficit."

Comment

1.1 It is correct that I did not *routinely* mention morbidity. However I did do so regularly for some conditions, eg: AVSD, other Mitral Valve repairs, the Senning operation, the Fontan operation and insertion of a valved conduit from the Right Ventricle to the Pulmonary Artery.

It was my practice in these, among other conditions, to indicate possible or probable complications such as a leaking mitral valve, conduction problems, the possible need for medication, a pace-maker or further surgery. In addition I would discuss these subjects in response to a question or prompting by the family.

1.2 It is also true that I did not *routinely* mention neurological deficits. However I always did do so explicitly for operations for coarctation of the aorta in children, where there is a risk of paraplegia. In addition, in other conditions, I would have discussed the risk of neurological complications in response to a question or prompting from the family.

2. C Likelihood of future surgery or protracted drug regimes being needed.

Lines V,W. "I cannot recall whether either surgeon routinely mentioned either future surgery or a protracted drug regime if needed."

Comment

It is correct that I did not *routinely* mention future surgery or the possibility of protracted drug regimens. However I did do so regularly for some conditions and for the possibility of future surgery being needed; eg: AVSD, other Mitral Valve repair, the Senning operation and any Right Ventricle to Pulmonary Artery conduit insertion. In addition I would discuss these topics in response to any question or prompting from the family.