

## **The origin of this Inquiry**

- 1.1 This Commission of Inquiry arose out of complaints relating to Dr Jayant Patel at Bundaberg Base Hospital in 2004 and early 2005. These complaints, and other concerns expressed about Dr Patel's judgment, competence and care, and the failure of Bundaberg Base Hospital's administrators, and later officers of Queensland Health, to address those complaints and concerns, have been one of the main focuses of this Inquiry.
- 1.2 Those complaints and concerns might never have been made public or been properly addressed if it had not been for the efforts of three people. The first and most important of these was Ms Toni Hoffman. It was her courage and persistence which, in the face of inaction and even resistance, brought the scandalous conduct of Dr Patel to light. I say more about Ms Hoffman's contribution in Chapter Three at paragraphs 3.324 to 3.331 and 3.432.
- 1.3 The second was Mr Rob Messenger MP. Had he not raised Ms Hoffman's complaints in Parliament it may be that there would never have been a public inquiry into them. I mention his contribution further in Chapter Three at paragraphs 3.370 to 3.373 and 3.432.