



19 January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

**Important health message for patients of Dr Nicholas Southall, Cronulla**

I am writing to you because your name and address have been provided to us by Dr Nicholas Southall as part of a public health investigation into the Cronulla Dental Surgery, at Shop 3, 20 Gerrale St, Cronulla.

Assessment by the Dental Council of NSW and NSW Health over October to December 2017 identified problems with the cleaning, sterilisation and storage of dental equipment used at the Cronulla Dental Surgery from May 2003 onwards.

Records provided by Dr Southall identify you as a patient who had one or more **invasive** dental procedures performed at the Cronulla practice. NSW Health advises that, for patients that had an invasive procedure, there is a LOW risk that you may have been exposed to hepatitis B or hepatitis C, and I recommend that you see your family doctor for testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.

Invasive procedures are procedures where a needle or other instrument pierces the skin, gums or tooth pulp/root, or where bleeding occurs. A simple check-up, x-ray, or getting dentures, for example, would **not** cause a risk of infection with these viruses.

If you test positive for one of these infections it will not necessarily mean that you were infected at Cronulla Dental Surgery, as there are many other sources of these infections.

Please note that NSW Health is not aware of any person being infected after undergoing dental procedures at the Cronulla Dental Surgery.

**However, I strongly advise you to see your family doctor / GP, and ask to be tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV infection.**

Information on hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV is available on the NSW Health website at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Cronulla Dental Surgery Information Line on 1800 610 344 between 9am and 7pm on business days.

**When you see your doctor, please take this letter with you.**

Yours faithfully

Professor Mark J Ferson  
**Director, Public Health Unit**