

BRIEF SUBMISSION/COMMENT ON DRAFT

**CONSENT TO TREATMENT POLICY FOR THE WA HEALTH SYSTEM**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WA 2006

The Health Consumers' Council is an independent community based organisation, representing the consumers' 'voice' in health policy, planning, research and service delivery. The Council advocates on behalf of consumers to government, doctors, other health professionals, hospitals and the wider health system. Funded by the Department of Health WA, the Council provides a state wide service. To find out more you can check our website [www.hcc-wa.global.net.au](http://www.hcc-wa.global.net.au).

**p.17 9.2 Can procedure specific consent forms be amended and used as information sheets**

To avoid confusion reference should be made to proposed procedure specific information sheets.

**p.17 10 Patients from CALD Backgrounds or with special needs**

The Health Consumers' Council recommends that an example of 'appropriate communication methods' would be very helpful to readers (health service providers) of this section.

**p.18 11 Who is responsible for obtaining consent?**

**11.1 Can another practitioner obtain a patient's consent to treatment?**

The Health Consumers' Council recommends that the person/team member/health professional responsible for obtaining consent from the patient must document their name and position in the patient's notes.

**Delegation to Junior Medical Practitioners**

This delegation must be documented in the patient's notes, and in addition where junior medical practitioners refuse to undertake the delegated task, this must be documented in the patient's notes.

**p.24 15.1 What if a patient arrives in the operating theatre without documented consent?**

The Health Consumers' Council strongly recommends that a consent procedure is developed for this set of circumstances where the patient is asked:

to confirm the procedure being undertaken

to confirm site of surgery or intervention

if the patient cannot confirm the procedure/site the surgery should be delayed until proper consent is obtained.