

14th March 2018

The Honourable Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for NSW Health
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Hazzard

The NSW Senior Medical Staff Executive Council representing senior medical staff across NSW met on 22nd February 2018 and unanimously endorsed a motion of support of our colleagues at Sydney Children's Network, who are raising concerns regarding the capacity of tertiary paediatric centres in NSW and the inability to cope with increasing demands.

The Western Sydney Children's Hospital is a national referral centre as well as a vital western hub for tertiary paediatric services.

We endorsed their plan to seek a meeting with you to discuss these serious capacity concerns and hope that you are able to meet with them without delay.

Regards



Theresa Jacques

Secretary - NSW MSEC

On behalf of Ruth Arnold and Tony Joseph

Joint Chairs – NSW MSEC

cc. Elizabeth Koff, Secretary for NSW Health



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

Associate Professor Theresa Jacques
Secretary
NSW Medical Staff Executive Council
Email: contact@nswmsec.com

Our ref M18/1469


Dear Associate Professor Jacques

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Dr Tony Joseph and Dr Ruth Arnold, expressing the NSW Medical Staff Executive Council's support for the Medical Staff Councils of Sydney Children's Hospitals Network meeting with me to discuss their concerns about capacity and demand. I can confirm that I met with the Medical Staff Council representatives from Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick on 21 March 2018, and The Children's Hospital at Westmead on 23 March respectively.

I appreciate the time taken to express the support of the NSW Medical Staff Executive Council about the Medical Staff Council's advocacy on these important issues.

Ensuring that health services can be delivered safely and in a timely manner, in facilities that can meet current and future demand, is a priority for the NSW Government. I am committed to working with local health districts and speciality health networks in looking at how to best deliver on this priority.

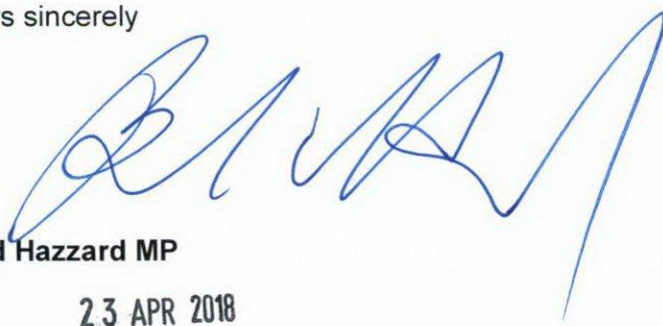
The NSW Government continues to invest in services to meet population growth and projected demand. This includes the \$900 million investment in the Westmead precinct, that will benefit the adult and children's hospitals, and in other capital works projects across the state.

We are also addressing the increasing demand for paediatric intensive care with a \$4.5 million investment at The Children's Hospital at Westmead to construct a close observation unit. The unit will open in mid-2018 and complement other initiatives to enhance capacity, which include optimising the delivery of cardiothoracic and spinal surgery across the Network, and expanding the use of Hospital in the Home. The six bed unit will be an important addition to the hospital ahead of the new emergency department and short stay unit which will be operational in 2020.

The NSW Government is also investing heavily in other paediatric services across the state, particularly in South West Sydney, to relieve some of the pressures on our tertiary services.

Thank you again for taking the time to support your colleagues and for highlighting these important issues.

Yours sincerely


Brad Hazzard MP
23 APR 2018