



Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

22 August 2024

Lucy Pinnock
Director
Crown Solicitor's Office
60-70 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Lucy

Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

I am writing in relation to the Inquiry's upcoming visits to the Northern NSW, Mid North Coast and Hunter New England Local Health Districts (**NNSWLHD**, **MNCLHD** and **HNELHD** respectively).

Witnesses

I refer to your emails of 21 and 22 August 2024 in relation to witnesses proposed by NSW Health. The Inquiry confirms that it would be assisted by receiving statements from the following individuals:

MNCLHD

1. Lydia Dennett
2. Stewart Dowrick
3. Robin Martin
4. Taresa Rosten
5. John Slaven
6. Peter Tresedor AO
7. Jill Wong

NNSWLHD

1. Peter Carter
2. Dr Ralph Cheng
3. Dr Robert Davies
4. Tracey Maisey

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5. Jennifer Richter
6. Kathryn Watson

HNELHD

1. A/Prof Martin Cohen
2. Dr Paul Craven
3. Tony Gilbertson
4. Susan Heyman
5. Dr Chris Levi
6. Ms Tracey McCosker
7. Mr David Quirk
8. Dr David Scott

In confirming the above witnesses, it is noted that a statement from Jo Campbell is not needed given his unavailability.

In relation to the balance of the witnesses which were previously confirmed, the Inquiry does not require confirmation of the topics that will be addressed in the statements.

I confirm that the Inquiry is amenable to a deadline of **5 September 2024** for the receipt of the statements.

Additional information to be addressed in statements

In addition to the topics already identified for inclusion in statements, the Inquiry would be grateful to receive evidence addressing the following issues:

1. Statistics concerning the make-up of the medical workforce in each LHD, and the extent of the reliance on, and cost of temporary and locum arrangements, particularly in Armidale and Tamworth, but not limited to those locations.
2. The financial performance of each LHD the ability of each to meet LHD to meet its Key Performance Indicators, and any plans to improve upon the same.
3. Strategies and initiatives to address the health disparities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people (i.e. to 'close the gap'), particularly in MNCLHD, but not limited to that location.

The Inquiry would be grateful for your confirmation as to whether the witnesses above are placed to address those matters. To the extent that additional witnesses would be required to speak to those matters, the Inquiry would be grateful for your confirmation of those witnesses.

Aboriginal representative - MNCLHD

I refer to your letter of 29 April 2024 in which NSW Health helpfully provided a list of organisations, entities or persons operating within MNCLHD that the Inquiry may benefit from speaking with.

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The Inquiry would be grateful to the MCNLHD for the contact information of suitable Aboriginal Community Representatives to be identified in consultation with the Aboriginal Health Team (per point 7 on p. 2 of your letter).

Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



James Palmer

Senior Solicitor

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