

[Our Ref: DG85058/24

Richard Beasley SC
The Commissioner
Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding
Chief Secretary's Building
Level 2, 121 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Commissioner Beasley

Re: Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding Hearing, 21 November 2024

I write on behalf of the Board of Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (Justice Health NSW), in response to points raised during the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding Hearing, which took place on 21 November 2024.

Some of the statements provided at the hearing, require clarifying for the record. Evidence is provided below, against the relevant statements made.

Transcript statement 1

I'd asked the Chief Executive well over a year ago, because I chair their performance management, and the KPIs are predominantly green, which is a good thing, but then it does question about are we challenging ourselves sufficiently and pushing ourselves to maximise the input for that client base, and she agreed - we're now in furious agreement. I've yet to hear back from her as to what the new KPIs should be that will stretch corrections health, and they are wanting to be stretched.

Evidence provided by Justice Health NSW in response to transcript statement 1

Justice Health NSW increased the number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the 2023/2024 Service Agreement following extensive consultation and engagement with both Justice Health NSW and Ministry of Health stakeholders, and as discussed at the Quarterly Performance Meeting with the Ministry of Health on 15 November 2023.

New KPIs included:

- Psychiatrist waitlists (patients seen within required timeframe)
- Drug & Alcohol Specialist waitlists - patients seen within required timeframe
- Primary Care General Practitioner (GP) waitlists - patients seen within required timeframe
- John Morony Correctional Centre contracted KPIs (public/private partnership)
- Inclusion of Health of the Nation Outcome Scale (HoNOS) scores for patients discharged from mental health inpatient units
- Increase in forensic patients' admission in the Forensic Hospital compared to previous year
- Court diversion of mentally ill people away from the criminal justice system
- Proportion of Aboriginal Patients with alcohol and substance use disorders who engaged with Drug & Alcohol services

During 2023/2024, 9 of the new KPIs either did not perform or underperformed.

In the 2024/2025 Service Agreement, Justice Health NSW added a new KPI to reflect the demand on the dental service in addition to the existing dental activity measure (Dental Weighted Activity Units):

- Dental access performance - dental patients treated on time.

This KPI has not performed since it was implemented in July 2024.

Meetings were held between the Ministry of Health and Justice Health NSW on 2 October 2024 and 1 November 2024 to discuss development of new KPIs for the 2025/2026 Service Agreement and the format of Quarterly Performance Meetings.

In regard to Justice Health NSW KPI performance, in the past 12 months the following underperforming and non-performing KPIs have been discussed at the Quarterly Performance Meetings between the Ministry of Health and Justice Health NSW:

- 15 November 2023 - Psychiatrist waitlists, Primary Care GP waitlists, Mental Health acute post-discharge community care follow up within 7 days, HoNOS score improvements for discharged patients from acute mental health units
- 16 February 2024 – Psychiatrist waitlists, Primary Care GP waitlists, Aboriginal Integrated Care service patients who attended their GP appointment post-release, HoNOS score improvements for discharged patients from acute mental health inpatient units and for discharged Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patients from acute mental health inpatient units
- 14 May 2024 - Staff trained in Between the Flags, Psychiatrist waitlists, Primary Care GP waitlists, Aboriginal Integrated Care service patients who attended their GP appointment post-release, Aboriginal Health Practitioner employment, Mental Health acute post-discharge community care follow up within 7 days, HoNOS score improvements for discharged patients from acute mental health units, 20% increase in forensic patient admissions to the Forensic Hospital, influenza vaccinations, custodial patients initiating Hepatitis C Treatment, People Matters Survey results.
- 20 November 2024 - Dental Clinical Service (purchased activity volume) and Dental waitlists - patients seen within the required timeframe, achievement of annual procurement savings target, Primary Care GP waitlists, Psychiatrist waitlists, Mental Health acute post-discharge custodial care follow-up within 7 days.

Transcript statement 2

In order to stretch in a positive way, they would need a funding envelope to enable them to do it, presumably?

She has not raised that with me.

It has not been raised with you that the funding envelope made available to Justice Health NSW is not sufficient to meet the health needs of the prison population?

Not in any performance meeting I've had in the last two year.

Evidence provided by Justice Health NSW in response to transcript statement 2

At the Quarterly Performance Meeting on 9 May 2023 between Ministry of Health and Justice Health NSW under agenda item 4.6 *the health system is managed sustainably – activity and finance*, Justice Health NSW confirmed that demand for oral health exceeds funding allocated and they will be seeking to increase the funding for activity in 2023/2024.

Transcript statement 3

They always have an opportunity to advocate for the needs of additional funding with us.

Evidence provided by Justice Health NSW in response to transcript statement 3

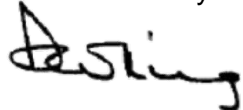
Justice Health NSW has made the following funding submissions as part of the 2024/2025 Purchasing Roadshow:

- Freshwater Unit operating cost
- Returning Junee Correctional Centre to public management from 1 April 2025
- Implementing a new menu for the Forensic Hospital to comply with the *Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) Nutrition Standards for Consumers of Inpatient Mental Health Services*.
- Transition to the new statewide Single Digital Patient Record (SDPR).

Of these, \$4.7 million Freshwater Unit and \$1.4 million (\$5.7 million annualised) Junee recurrent funding has been provided in the 2024/2025 Service Agreement. The \$1.3 million one-off transition funding requested for Junee, \$0.8 million for the new menu and \$9.0 million for the SDPR project over 3 years has not been provided.

Justice Health NSW made unsuccessful Capital Investment Proposal submissions for Forensic Hospital Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Expansion Project in 3 consecutive years (2021, 2022, and 2023). A lack of CCTV coverage had been identified as a risk factor in serious incident reviews at the hospital. Following notification of a serious incident to the Ministry of Health, advice was received in September 2024 that funding of \$0.7million will be provided in 2025/2026 for the project.

Yours sincerely



Professor Denis King, OAM
Chair of the Board, Justice Health NSW

December 2024