



Health
Western NSW
Local Health District

Trim: D23/990

Date: 6-2-22

**Date should read
6 - 2-2023**

A/Prof Michael Woodward
Chair, Accreditation Subcommittee
Adult Internal Medicine Division Basic Training Committee
Royal Australasian College of Physicians

By email accreditation@racp.edu.au

Dear A/Professor Woodward,

Accreditation of the Basic Physician Training Programme at Bathurst Hospital

I am writing in relation to the Royal Australasian College of Physician's ("the **College**") decision to withdraw the accreditation from the Basic Physician Training (BPT) training programme at Bathurst Hospital.

Western New South Wales Local Health District (the "**LHD**") was notified at 11:00 am on 3 February 2023 of the College's decision to withdraw the accreditation from Bathurst Hospital, effective from the end of 3rd February 2023. When queried, the College indicated that recognition of the current BPT's time at Bathurst would not be affected but that the accreditation had been withdrawn with immediate effect and that would affect the trainees due to arrive on Monday 6th February.

To date the College has not provided the LHD with its formal written decision. The LHD is seeking an immediate stay of the decision, and the return of the trainees to Bathurst Hospital, until such time as the LHD receives the formal decision including the criteria under which the decision was reached. Once formal notification of the decision is received, the LHD will be in a position to consider its options in respect of the College's *Reconsideration Review and Appeals Process By-Law*.

The College notified the LHD of potential breaches of the RACP Training Provider Standards in a letter dated 22 July 2022. The LHD proposed an action plan in my letter dated 29 July 2022. The LHD has demonstrated significant commitment to rectifying the issues at Bathurst Hospital and have provided the information requested by the College in subsequent communication, dated 2 September 2022, 29 November 2022, 11 January 2023 and 25 January 2023. The LHD is committed to the action plan, and it will be ongoing. In a meeting held on 25 January 2023 between the College and the LHD, the College gave no indication that there was an urgent issue that would warrant the immediate withdrawal of the trainees, let alone the accreditation of the training programme.

The LHD is concerned it has not been afforded due process in terms of opportunity to rectify issues identified by the College or adequate notification of the College's reasons for the immediate withdrawal of trainees.

Western NSW Local Health District

ABN 50 629 556 404

Chief Executive Unit

PO Box 4061 7 Commercial Avenue

Dubbo NSW 2830

Tel (02) 6809 8700 Fax (02) 6809 7962

Website: www.wnswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au

We request an urgent meeting to discuss a stay of the decision to withdraw trainees as well as a timeframe for receiving formal notification of the decision and reasons for the decision.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr Mark Spittal
Chief Executive

Cc: *Interim Chief Executive RACP, Ms Louise McElvogue, Louise.McElvogue@racp.edu.au,
Dr Inam Haq, Executive Manager Education, Inam.Haq@racp.edu.au*