

WNSWLHD D23/1463



Health
Western NSW
Local Health District

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/Prof Woodward

Western New South Wales Local Health District – Bathurst Hospital

I refer to your letter dated 7 February 2023 in which you advise that the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (**RACP**) cannot allow new trainees to continue to be placed at Bathurst Hospital until it is satisfied that the hospital fully complies with the RACP Training Provider Standards (**the Decision**).

Western New South Wales Local Health District (**WNSWLHD**) is committed to working with the RACP to resolve the issues identified. I am concerned about the matters identified by the RACP as leading to the Decision and assure you the rectification of those matters is being taken very seriously.

While I stress that WNSWLHD is committed to resolving the issues that have been identified, in fairness I should indicate that WNSWLHD considers that the Decision does not appear to be consistent with the RACP's published policies, including that procedural fairness was not provided in the RACP's decision-making process. A threshold concern for WNSWLHD is that the withdrawal of trainees is not an option that is expressly contemplated by the *Training Provider Accreditation Framework* or the *Monitoring a Training Provider* policy. Further, in its letter of 7 February 2023 the RACP outlined issues and expectations that were not previously put to WNSWLHD, and we do not think WNSWLHD had an adequate opportunity to respond to them before the Decision was made. These included the expectation that the identified criteria should have been satisfied before the date of the Decision, and the requirement to appoint an appropriate academic.

I wish to put the RACP on notice that WNSWLHD intends to seek a review of the Decision in accordance with the RACP *Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Process By-Law*. Further, WNSWLHD reserves its position in respect of other possible remedies or avenues it may have in respect of the Decision.

I would like to reiterate that WNSWLHD is committed to working with the RACP to resolve the issues and is open to meeting with RACP to discuss actions to remediate the issues identified by the RACP, noting that the absence of training is already having a critical impact on clinical service delivery. Should you wish to arrange this, please contact me on 0417 936 952.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Spittal'.

Mark Spittal
Chief Executive

Date: 17 February 2023

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