

To: The Hon Ryan Park MP,
Minister for Health,
Parliament House, Macquarie Street,
Sydney NSW 2000.

From: Assoc Prof Winston Cheung,
Chair, Medical Staff Council,
Concord Repatriation General Hospital.

Clinical Associate Professor,
Sydney Medical School – Concord, University of Sydney.

C/- Intensive Care Unit,
Concord Repatriation General Hospital,
Hospital Road, Concord NSW 2139.
Email: [REDACTED]

9th July 2023

Re. No confidence vote in the Chief Executive of the Sydney Local Health District, and proposed meeting with delegation from Concord Repatriation General Hospital.

Dear Minister Park,

Thank you very much for your support for the staff at Concord Repatriation General Hospital (CRGH) during this difficult time.

Your support is much appreciated.

We acknowledge that the problems in the Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) predate your appointment as Health Minister, and predate the current Government coming into office.

We appreciate your work in rectifying these issues.

I would like to arrange a meeting for you to be briefed by a delegation of the Concord Hospital Medical Staff Council, the nursing staff and allied health staff on the issues at Concord Hospital that culminated in the vote of no confidence in the Chief Executive of the SLHD.

I suggest the following dates for the meeting if they suit:

Suggested meeting dates:	12 th to 21 st July 2023
Suggested meeting format:	In person – face to face
Attendees:	Myself and approximately 12 medical, nursing and allied health staff representatives from Concord Hospital
Suggested length of meeting:	2 hours

I would like you to be briefed directly from the departments and disciplines adversely affected by the poor management practices in the SLHD.

I suspect you will be shocked and dismayed by what they have to say.

The problems in the SLHD are far greater than what you have been informed. These problems are not confined to Concord Hospital or the SLHD. They also affect other facilities in NSW Health.

Unfortunately, the SLHD Board has declined an invitation to meet immediately with the CRGH Medical Staff Council, the nursing staff, and the allied health staff. They have informed us that they will meet with us after the investigation has concluded to discuss the results, which will be many months away. In the meantime, they have only requested a meeting of 3 members of the SLHD Board with the CRGH Medical Staff Council Executive.

This is an unfortunate decision from the SLHD Board, given that one of the grievances of the staff at Concord Hospital is a failure to listen to staff and a failure to engage with staff.

The SLHD Board's failure to meet with staff is similar to their reaction after they were made aware of the issues at CRGH in a letter that I wrote to them, dated 12th October 2022, 9 months ago, which I have attached.

This letter outlined many of the serious issues that befell Concord Hospital. Issues which the SLHD has failed to address adequately over the last 9 months.

At the time, the SLHD Board again declined to meet with a delegation from the CRGH Medical Staff Council and Nurses and Allied Health staff.

Had they listened to the medical, nursing and allied health staff at CRGH at the time, and addressed their concerns, I suspect the outcome may have been different.

The reaction from staff and people outside of the SLHD since the vote of no confidence in the Chief Executive of the SLHD is unprecedented. I have been contacted by many current and former staff in the SLHD thanking me for finally allowing the problems in the SLHD to be revealed.

We need to make you fully aware of the problems that your government will likely have to address in the upcoming months. The problems are probably far greater than what you have told.

Thank you again for your support for staff at Concord Hospital.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Yours Sincerely,

Assoc Prof Winston Cheung,
Chair,
Medical Staff Council,
Concord Repatriation General Hospital.

Senior Staff Specialist,
Intensive Care Unit,
Concord Repatriation General Hospital.

Clinical Associate Professor,
Sydney Medical School – Concord, University of Sydney.