The Hon Ryan Park MP

Minister for Health Minister for Regional Health Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast



Ref: M23/5790

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Dr Winston Cheung Chair, Concord Repatriation General Hospital Medical Staff Council

Concord Repatriation General Hospital Medical Staff Council

Minster

Dear Dr Cheung

Thank you for writing on behalf of the Concord Repatriation General Hospital Medical Staff Council about the Council's vote of no confidence in the Sydney Local Health District Board on 26 October 2023.

I acknowledge the Council's concerns and appreciate your advocacy on this matter.

I regret to advise that I am unable to meet with the Concord Repatriation General Hospital Medical Staff Council at this time.

I am aware of the concerns that have been raised about management of Concord Repatriation General Hospital, including concerns around bullying, poor culture, and performance.

I have confidence in the integrity and independence of the work currently being conducted by ProActive ReSolutions to listen to the concerns and issues of staff at the Hospital and identify what is required to deliver the improvements needed to create a more positive working environment.

I also acknowledge your concerns about a culture of bullying, harassment, and intimidation. I agree that the process being conducted by ProActive ReSolutions is not an investigation into specific allegations. I am advised that it is intended to facilitate an environment where any allegations can be brought forward in a safe and supported way.

I would encourage you and your fellow members of the Council to engage constructively in the process that has been put in place. It is my strong view that this work should be allowed to continue. I note that effective from 21 November 2023, the Ministry appointed 2 senior and experienced staff, Dr Marianne Gale and David Ananin, who are independent of Concord Repatriation General Hospital, to support the hospital in this very important work.

In addition, I understand your concerns about the backlog in radiology and am advised that work is progressing to address this. The Chief Executive, Sydney Local Health District, is meeting with the Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance on a fortnightly basis to report on the progress of reducing the backlog.

I am advised there is an escalation process in place for medical officers to request urgent reviews. Further, the District continues to actively explore a range of options to expedite resolution of the backlog.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours since

Ryan Park MP Minister for Health

Minister for Regional Health

Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast