



The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health

The Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC
Minister for Women
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for Mental Health

Ms Mary Dowling
Executive Director
Health Services Association of NSW
Email: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

Our ref B22/1127

Dear Ms Dowling

Thank you for writing about the Health Services Association's and Tresillian's proposal to amend to the *Health Services Act 1997* (the Act).

You have proposed an amendment to column 2 of Schedule 3 of the Act to omit Tresillian's current recognised establishments or services and replace them with "*Tresillian services conducted under written agreements with the NSW Ministry of Health, the Health Administration Corporation or a Local Health District*". You also advise the intended effect of this amendment is that "*all Tresillian services funded by NSW Health, now and also into the future, will be covered*".

As advised in earlier correspondence to Mr Mills in February 2022, it is not proposed to amend the Act at this time both because of inherent issues in the proposal and further, the NSW Parliament will not sit again for usual legislative processes prior to the March 2023 election.

I am advised that the amendment proposed by the HSA and Tresillian would, if implemented, create funding uncertainty for Tresillian, as it would mean Tresillian would lose the assurance of ongoing funding of its existing recognised services. Instead, those services would become recognised services only where time-limited funding agreements are in place in respect of those services. Accordingly it would not be in the long-term interest of those existing Schedule 3 services, or consistent with their status as recognised public health services under the Act.

More importantly, funding is not confirmed from 1 July 2023 for Tresillian services established after the 2021-22 Budget. The NSW Ministry of Health is finalising outcomes arising from a Strategic Review of Tresillian and Karitane which seeks to align child and family services more closely with the strategic objectives of the First 2000 Days Framework. It would be premature to amend the Act to effectively expand the recognised services of any specific provider while the outcomes of the Strategic Review and funding for Tresillian services and other similar services are still being finalised.

Treasury Managed Fund indemnification through icare applies to existing Tresillian services indicated in column 2 Schedule 3 of the Act. In consultations with the Ministry, icare has confirmed that coverage is only possible for Tresillian specified in Column 2 of Schedule 3 of the Act.

To the extent that Tresillian is concerned with additional insurance costs that need to be incurred in respect of NSW Health funded Tresillian services that are not listed in Column 2 of Schedule 3 of the Act, that is a matter that it would be appropriate for Tresillian to raise with relevant funding entities as part of funding agreement negotiations about the cost of services.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health

20 DEC 2022

CC: The Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Women, Regional Health and Mental Health
Mr Rob Mills, Chief Executive Officer, Tresillian