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25 March 2024

Ms Susan Pearce AM
Secretary, New South Wales Health
St Leonard's NSW 2030

Dear Secretary

Funding Agreement with St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Further to my correspondence to you in November 2023, I write to seek your support to commence formal discussions regarding a sustainable funding arrangement for St Vincent's Hospital Sydney (SVHS). I am cognisant that the 2024-25 financial year is fast approaching and that detailed Service Level Agreement negotiations will be commencing shortly.

As you are aware, the St Vincent's Health Australia Board approved the execution of the 2023-24 Service Level Agreement in recognition of our enduring partnership, but on the condition that we enter into a formal process of discussions related to a funding model that supports the capital and operating sustainability of SVHS and, more broadly, the strategic sustainability of the St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct.

Whilst I respectfully acknowledge our partnership of 167 years, I must reiterate that St Vincent's will not be in a position to execute the 2024-25 Service Level Agreement under the current funding parameters and without a shared position on the role of SVHS within the system.

In the context of unprecedented financial constraints across the State healthcare system, which are impacting both public and private operators, now more than ever, I believe we must work together to collectively solve these challenges.

We look forward to discussing this important matter with you.

Yours sincerely

Paul McClintock AO
Chair
St Vincent's Health Australia