



**ST VINCENT'S
HEALTH NETWORK**
SYDNEY

A SERVICE OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA

St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

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15 / 5 / 2023

Mr Alfa D'Amato
Deputy Secretary, Financial Services,
Asset Management and Chief Financial Officer
NSW Health
1 Reserve Road
St Leonards, NSW 2065

Dear Mr Alfa D'Amato

**RE: Closure of St Joseph's Hospital (SJH) - 2A Normanby Road, Auburn NSW
early September 2023**

As you are aware through our regular meetings St Vincent's Health Network Sydney sadly plans to decommission St Joseph's Hospital Auburn (SJH).

While SJH has a proud history of public service provision to our community, the viability and sustainability of the Campus has been under threat for several years due to lack of scale and ageing infrastructure. Over the past eight years St Vincent's has sought to engage the Ministry of Health (MH) to identify a viable strategic option for the future of SJH, including relocating to the Westmead campus (two separate cases were developed for with two different viable options) and developing the site at Auburn to improve scale and amenity (two planning options proposed to retain SJH at Auburn). Despite significant efforts to explore these options, we have been unable to secure investment from the NSW Government to support ongoing public service provision at the SJH site.

SJH can no longer provide a safe working environment or contemporary care and patient experience that our community and our workforce deserve. Considering this, the St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) Board have no other choice but to make the very difficult decision to decommission the SJH Auburn site and transfer services to the St Vincent's Hospital Sydney campus in Darlinghurst. The decommissioning will need to take effect from September 2023. A detailed decommissioning plan is being developed which considers activity, workforce, infrastructure and logistics. As always at St Vincent's our people and our patients are our priority.

Aligned with this principle, and consistent with our previous discussions, held at a ministerial and secretarial level, we are aware you have been given responsibility to find

a way forward to help fund this transition and we have been in discussions with you since early this year regarding activity funding transfer to the Darlinghurst campus and required redundancy payments for the impending closure.

SVHNS has been supported by the Ministry in the past with redundancy payment funding and once again we are seeking this essential support.

SVHNS is seeking a commitment from the MoH to fund staff redundancy costs up to a maximum of \$20.5M for our current staff of approximately 225 headcount. SVHNS will seek to minimise these costs through:

- a. Offering transfer of willing staff to suitable vacancies at St Vincent's Hospital Darlinghurst;
- b. Negotiating transfer of willing staff to suitable vacancies in other Local Health Districts (LHDs);
- c. Offering transfer of willing staff to suitable vacancies at the Parklea Correctional Centre supported by St Vincent's Health Network Sydney.

To minimise uncertainty for our people we plan to announce the closure to staff in June so are seeking your urgent confirmation.

This service closure decision and request for support and funding was also formally raised by the Chief Executive Officer of St Vincent's Health Network Sydney in a meeting today with the NSW Ministry of Health Deputy Secretary Health System Strategy and Planning.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important and sensitive initiative.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



John Slaven
Chief Financial Officer & Director of Corporate Services
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

Cc
Anthony Schembri
Susan Pearce