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The Hon Brad Hazzard  
Minister for Health & Medical Research  
52 Martin Place  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**  
By email: [office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Minister

**Re: St Vincent's Health Network Sydney EMR Business Case/St Joseph's Hospital**

Thank you for meeting with St Vincent's on 2 February. I write to follow up on those discussions particularly St Vincent's Network Sydney's request for funding support to implement an electronic medical record and the future of St Joseph's Hospital.

As you will recall, a key topic of discussion was the business case submitted by St Vincent's in December 2020 seeking funding for an integrated and interoperable electronic medical record (EMR) and patient administration system (PAS) to address current clinical risks related to our disparate paper and ageing digital systems. Additionally, the Emergency Department's need for a modern digital system is critical, as is the requirement for a scheduling system for outpatients and a scanning solution for the organisation. St Vincent's also has limited capability for sharing clinical information with other public hospitals with the current platforms.

The submitted business case seeks an 80% contribution from the NSW Government to the capital cost of \$62.5m equating to \$50m over three years, \$16.6m per annum. St Vincent's would fund \$13m of the capital cost and all ongoing operational costs.

Whilst Government funding over three years is our preference, we proposed an alternative funding option for the Government's contribution to be provided over ten years (\$5m per annum) with St Vincent's to manage the upfront cashflow impacts.

Feedback from e-Health NSW has been favourable regarding St Vincent's business case, the vendor selection, the approach and the alignment with NSW government strategies and priorities. The proposed scope provides a significant increase in capability to enable St Vincent's to reach a high level of digital maturity and to fully deliver and participate in NSW's digital and eHealth initiatives.

We appreciate further consideration of our EMR business case including the alternative proposed funding option.

St Vincent's Health Network Sydney  
St Vincent's Hospital Sydney  
Sacred Heart Health Service  
St Joseph's Hospital  
St Vincent's Correctional Health

We also discussed the future of St Joseph's Hospital. As you are aware we have faced financial, operational and infrastructure challenges at St Joseph's for many years. Should NSW Government capital funding not be available to support future delivery of health services at the site, the SVHA Board will regretfully need to consider closure. In the event that the Hospital closes and activity is reallocated to St Vincent's Darlinghurst, we will need the NSW Government's support for employee and redundancy entitlements for any staff not able to be redeployed.

I look forward to the Government's response on these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul McClintock AO'.

Paul McClintock AO  
**Chairman St Vincent's Health Australia**

Date: 11 February 2022

cc: A/Professor Anthony Schembri, CEO, SVHNS