



**ST VINCENT'S
HEALTH AUSTRALIA**

UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES

St Vincent's Health Australia Ltd

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15 November 2023

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

Dear Secretary

Future Service Level Agreements with St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

As you know St Vincent's Hospital Sydney is part of St Vincent's Health Australia, whose Board approved the execution of the 2023-24 Service Level Agreement forwarded to you by the Hospital's CEO with this letter.

The approval for this Agreement was given by the Board in recognition of our enduring partnership, but on the condition that I write to you at the same time stating that we believe that the approach taken for these annual contracts is unsustainable.

As you will understand from the correspondence from our management, the parameters of the current Service Level Agreement, notably the absence of capital funding (even for basic repairs and maintenance), together with the lack of resolution of funding for the Cahill-Cater Redevelopment and the Hospital's inclusion in the Statewide Single Digital Patient Record, provide an indication of how unsustainable this model has become.

Our organisation also has the benefit of providing public hospital services in other states, and the benefits to both sides of longer term and more strategic agreements is apparent. In light of this, the Board has asked me to relay to you that we cannot continue on this basis.

We do appreciate, however, that this is a busy time for the Ministry of Health and therefore we understand that discussions to address this critical issue are best scheduled for early 2024, which will still allow sufficient time for these discussions to be completed before the commencement of the 2024-25 financial year.

We look forward to discussing this important matter with you.

Yours sincerely

Paul McClintock AO
Chair St Vincent's Health Australia