



5 December 2023

Via email: [REDACTED]

Deborah Willcox AM
Deputy Secretary, Minister for Health
Health System Strategy and Planning
NSW Ministry of Health

Dear Deb,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity St John of God Health Care (SJGHC) has received to operate Hawkesbury District Health Service (HDHS) since 2016, and for the discussions regarding the potential renewal of our contract. The insightful and honest conversations during the negotiation process have been invaluable, and we are grateful for your collaborative approach.

As you are aware, we have been deeply concerned for some time about the ongoing financial sustainability of HDHS. These concerns have now reached critical levels in light of continuing operational challenges at HDHS in the first half of FY24. After careful consideration of the ongoing persistent challenges facing HDHS, we have formed the view that it would be impossible for us to sustainably operate HDHS in accordance with the latest proposed Terms and Conditions. Following consultation with our Board and Trustees, we believe that the best outcome for the community served by HDHS would be for St John of God Hawkesbury District Health Service Ltd to conclude its term as operator and to return the service to Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health Department (NBMLHD). This decision has not been made lightly, and comes after a comprehensive discernment.

Given that the current service agreement is due to expire on 31 March 2024, we think the best course of action is to commence immediate discussions to manage our exit from HDHS.

I recognise that there are significant complexities involved in this transition, and would like to stress that SJGHC is committed to ensuring a smooth and efficient handover that prioritises the well-being of the community; we are mindful of the importance of maintaining services without disruption. To this end, I propose we commence as soon as possible, a collaborative process to develop a comprehensive plan for a seamless handover. Our Board has expressed the

Level 1, 556 Wellington Street, Perth, WA 6000
PO Box 5753, St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA 6831
T. (08) 6116 0000 F. (08) 6116 0800 E. info@sjog.org.au
www.sjog.org.au

St John of God Health Care
ARBN 051960 911 ABN 21 930 207 958
(Limited Liability) Incorporated in
Western Australia

We acknowledge Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.



intention to complete this transition no later than 30 June 2024, with a proposed short 3 month extension of our contract to enable this to take place.

We are confident that, through open communication and joint efforts, we can develop a mutually beneficial plan that safeguards the interests of the community while allowing for an orderly transition of services. We value the relationships built during our partnership and remain committed to fostering a positive legacy.

In order to expedite the next steps for both the contract extension to 30 June 2024, and to commence transition planning, I would appreciate it if you can help to connect our teams together. The project lead for SJGHC will be Scott Gilbert [REDACTED] and I would be grateful if you can nominate an appropriate representatives from NSW Health/NBMLHD that he can make contact with as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve the NSW community through HDHS. We appreciate your understanding of the complexities that led to this decision and look forward to engaging in a collaborative process to facilitate an efficient and careful transition.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Pyne'.

Bryan Pyne
Group Chief Executive Officer